

Inked

CULTURE. STYLE. ART.

THE ACTION SPORTS ISSUE

INSIDE
THE
X GAMES

JEREMY
LUSK
LIVES ON

PLUS:

Dave Navarro
MxPx

Inked Girl
BETTY
LIPSTICK

OCTOBER 2011 ISSUE
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table of contents



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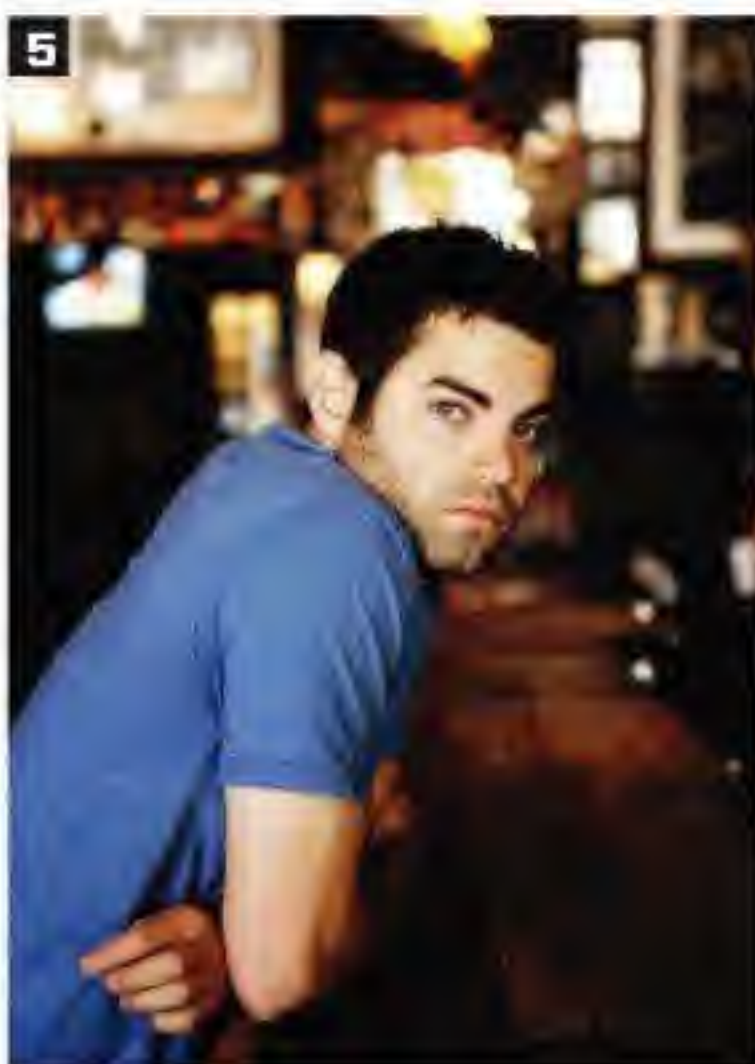
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ink well

The wordsmith Yogi Berra once said that baseball is 90 percent mental and the other half physical. But in this era of doping, steroids, and electrolytes, I think the physical should get a larger portion of the pie. Nonetheless, the sentiment that sports are head games still rings true. You may have to be a giant to play football, baseball, or basketball professionally, but a normal physical build is all you need to strap yourself to a board and go headfirst down a mountain—well, that and an advanced mentality. That's why the headstrong athletes of action sports are truly larger than life.

Cliff Talley (1) and photographer Joaquin Palting (2) provide a look at how the X Games went from being an underground exposition to the thoroughly modern Olympics. Matt Nager (3) hits the Rockies with snowboarding legend Janna Meyen-Weatherby. Then Lauren Lusk (4) talks about losing her husband, Jeremy, to a motocross wreck and how she is making sure his spirit never dies.

Also in this issue are people living out their dreams with an INKED lifestyle. Before Jane's Addiction releases their much-anticipated album, guitarist Dave Navarro sits for the Q&A and a photo shoot with Dustin Cohen (5). Cody Pickens (6) photographs tattooed sommelier Emily Wines (yes, that's her given name). Michael Dwornik (7) shows some fall fashion that's as tough as you are. And creative director Todd Weinberger (8), fresh off a trip to Germany, tells you where to visit when you stumble out of Oktoberfest.

I hope you dig this issue—it's 100 percent action packed.

Rocky Rakovic

Rocky Rakovic
Editor
editor@inkedmag.com



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IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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MEGAN MASSACRE

Ash Parthenopaeus Megan Massacre is hot, gothic fashion at its finest!

GINGER ANDERSON

Brandon Young Gorgeous. Lovely tattoos too.

ANNETTE LARUE

Elena Parra She's right, you know ... there definitely seems to be a curse on "name tattoos," which is why I forbid myself from getting one. It never fails!

MARIA BRINK

Carlos Avina Truly one of the hottest screamers out there.

ADAM GOLDBERG

Kendel Metzger I love him! Now he's sexy.

LUDO LEFEBVRE

Christine Diggler I <3 him and his potty mouth.



READER OF THE MONTH

OLIVIA RICHMAN
WOODSTOCK, CT

Want to be a Reader of the Month?
E-mail photos to inkedgirl@inkedmag.com

FRESH INK

Your magazine is a breath of fresh air. After tattooing for 22 years, I've noticed all the other magazines recycle the same clichés, and feature younger and younger kids trying to be rock stars. It was refreshing to read such quality articles and well-designed spreads that showcase people in the industry as having diverse interests and intelligence. Over the years, I've done many interviews, and it has been difficult to get the message across to the public that those with tattoos are regular people ... it isn't the story they want to write. But your magazine does that and more.

Noel Garcia
Grove Ink Tattoo

GOLDEN BOY

Adam Goldberg's article ["You Don't Know Me From Adam," August 2011] was fantastic. I knew he could act neurotic, but who knew he was neurotic? I like that you published a piece on someone who doesn't act like a macho alpha male. Keep the conversational pieces coming.

Jeremy Berman
Detroit, MI

WORDS TO LIVE BY

As I sit here at work and reread this amazing issue, I think it's a good time to let you guys know what an amazing job you are doing. I loved the Ink on the Street piece and hope to see more of them. Also, thanks to you I

checked out the Skin and Bones tattoo exhibit at the Mystic Seaport, and it was unreal—so much great flash and tattoo history. You keep writing, and I'll keep reading.

Peter LaCascia
East Boston, MA

COVER STORY

I was written up at work in violation of conduct policy for reading INKED in the break room. Judging a book by its

cover, [my company] assumed it was a tattoo-fetish porn mag. Following a long, heated debate, I pointed out the Victoria's Secret catalog and a host of celebrity summer swimsuit *People* and *US Weekly* trash rags were more provocative than your magazine. The write-up was cancelled, and now my boss keeps asking me about getting her first tattoo!

Todd Smith
Keyport, NJ



WRITE US. Got something to say? Send all praise, notes of complaint, story suggestions, and other comments to letters@inkedmag.com. All submissions should include the writer's name and address. Letters may be edited for clarity, length, and content. Also join the party at [facebook.com/inkedmag](https://www.facebook.com/inkedmag).



MY FIRST INK

Name: Jessica Swanson

Occupation: photographer

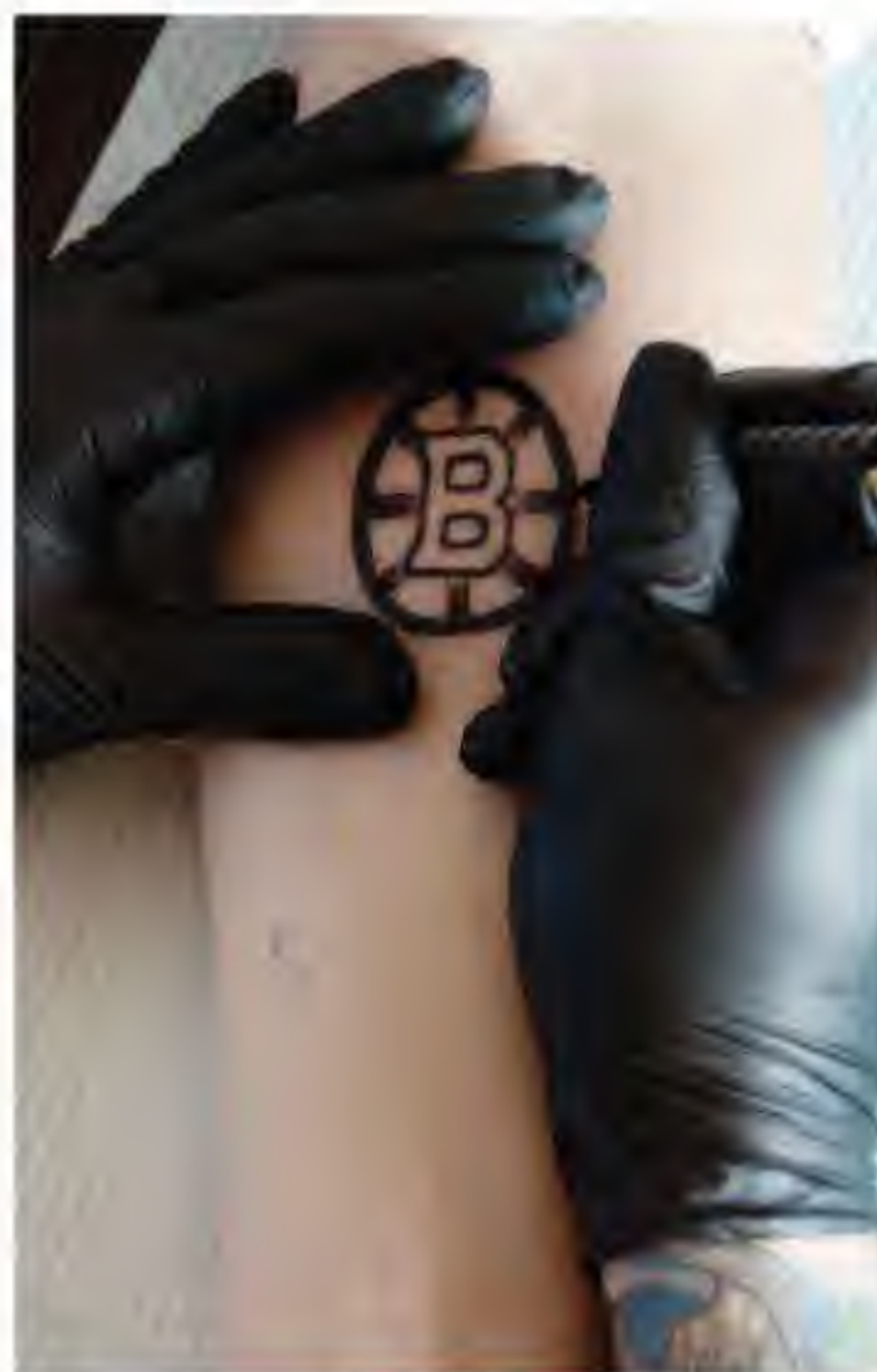
Hometown: Wallingford, CT

My first tattoo is a skeleton key on my right inner ankle. I'd wanted a tattoo since I was 15, so of course I got it a week after I turned 18, from Michele Mazza at Tattoo International in Wallingford, CT. I got it partly because I'd wanted a tattoo so bad for so long and partly for someone special in my life. A lot of people will joke around and ask, "Is that the key to your heart?" It's not, but I love it. It's still my favorite out of all my other tattoos—it reminds me who I am.

PHOTO BY GREG MANIS



Clockwise from left: Mark Recchi, Andrew Ference, Milan Lucic



RINK INK

When NHL defenseman Andrew Ference was traded from the Calgary Flames to the Boston Bruins, his tattoo artist Scott Ford of Smiling Buddha Tattoo, in Calgary, told him that if the Bruins ever won the Stanley Cup he would fly to Boston and ink anyone on the team. Well, there was much cause for celebration—and tattoos—when the Boston Bruins won their first Stanley Cup in over two decades. Ference decided to go with a Bruins logo and 2011 on his biceps, and a handful of his teammates also commemorated the victory in ink.



EDUCATION BOARDS

With arts programs being cut in public schools, nine Colorado tattoo shops asked their artists to paint skateboard decks that were then auctioned off for Youth On Record, a charity that operates music programs in residential treatment facilities. "The cool thing was that every artist came through," says Adam Rose of Fallen Owl Tattoo Studio, in Lakewood, CO. "One deck was still wet when we got it—but it got there." All in all the fund-raiser generated great art and a few thousand dollars to enrich the future.



NAILED IT

TheFrisky.com has discovered a new trend in the industry: nail tattoos. According to the site, a tattooist charged \$60 to do all 10 of a Philadelphia woman's nails; unfortunately, the designs will grow out as the nails do. Reactions from artists we asked about the practice were initially negative (they dislike that the art is only semipermanent), but as a few pondered how regularly women get their nails done, they got dollar signs in their eyes.

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Ninety-nine bottles of wine in the wall.

WINEARCHY

Damn the establishment; wield a corkscrew.

It's unfortunate that in the fantasy draft of alcohol, wine went to the snobs. Wine is delicious, wine is one of the purest products you can find in a liquor store, and wine is something that everybody at your table will drink. Even though it is egalitarian, wine seems inaccessible to many. The ranges of varietals and prices make wine harrowing to jump into. To a wine novice the reluctance of making a faux pas (the only time we'll ever use that term) greatly outweighs the enjoyment a good bottle of wine will bring. Why? High-societal pressure. As hipsters are to new music, those damn elitists are to the wine racks. But I get off on seeing stiff upper lips

quiver, so I popped the cork, took the plunge, and now I'm messing with their status quo.

The truth is, wine that impresses one aficionado may not necessarily impress another, or you. Play by your own rules and you'll find price isn't always indicative of quality. Personally, I have never paid more than \$30 for a bottle (I've had many that cost more, but it was on someone else's tab; some of the expensive bottles were great, and some were downright gross). These days, I have about 30 different wines under \$30 that I buy in rotation. So I say drink what you like and let the rich bleed themselves on paying for a label. —Robert McCormick

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

A chat with Emily Wines, master sommelier for Kimpton Hotels and Restaurants.

INKED: LET'S START OFF WITH THE OBVIOUS.

EMILY: Yes, it is my real last name. No, it's not why I wanted to become a sommelier.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO WINES? I was working in a restaurant while going to art school, and to be a better waitress I tried learning more about wine.

DO YOU THINK THERE IS AN ART TO WINE? I think wine is like art in a bottle. It's a combination of culture and agriculture that is constantly changing. But it's also so ephemeral, like an installation, because it's gone after you enjoy it.

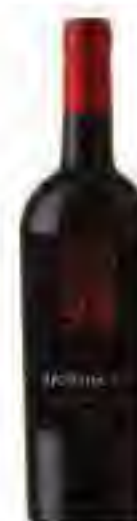
FOR A NOVICE, IS WINE AS DAUNTING AS ART? Wine shouldn't be intimidating. If you are just starting out try a Riesling, a pinot noir, or pinot grigio.

AS A FORMER ART STUDENT DO YOU LIKE TO DRAW YOUR OWN TATTOOS? I like to let the tattoo artist create something from my idea. The act of tattooing is really putting your trust in someone. I've always liked kitschy pinup art, and Patrick Conlon really did a wonderful job with my Polynesian woman. I've seen a lot of wine tattoos but sometimes I like to leave the work at work—though I do like to unwind with a glass of wine.



LEGENDS ESTATES TRUTH

This crisp, clean, and citrusy white blend (\$13) from the Niagara region recently received a bronze award at the Ontario Wine Awards. The vintner also produces a red blend, called Dare, and a sparkling rose. Best part: The bottle design is by tattoo artist Bob Paulin from Studio 123 in Ontario.



APOTHIC RED

This lush blend of Syrah, merlot, and zinfandel (\$14) that comes out of California is the house wine of the INKED office. Its robust flavor draws on black cherry, rhubarb, vanilla, molasses, and dark chocolate. It goes perfectly with a cigar—and the bottle looks pretty boss on your bar.



CORNISH MEAD

Mead, wine's forefather, is traditionally made from honey. This particular version (\$10) is a fruit wine flavored with honey with a 14% alcohol volume. Its maker, the Cornish Mead Company, also produces fruit wines—and, inspired by the tattoo world, they recently redesigned their bottles.

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Clockwise from top left: *Red Red Robin*, *Lamb of God*, Michael Hussar, *White Devil*



THEATER OF THE GROTESQUE

This isn't Michael Hussar's Halloween collection; he paints like this year-round.

If you've heard of Michael Hussar or you recognize his work, it's probably from an early episode of *LA Ink* when Corey Miller enlists the artist to help with a tattoo design of one of his original paintings. The guys hit it off and end up staging a late-night painting session at Hussar's studio. "It was fun as hell," Hussar remembers of filming. "But I totally cringe every time I watch it." The southern California-based artist acknowledges he's press-shy—he even admits to almost blowing off this interview—but he's come around. And he doesn't care whether you call his paintings lowbrow, outsider, surrealist, goth, or gory, as long as you're focusing on them, and not him.

"My childhood was calm and pretty much an American experience, with the sort of distant father and loving mother," Hussar says. When his father, an ex-Navy fighter pilot, went to one of his son's first gallery shows, he walked up to a painting of a naked woman standing up against a mushroom, walked back, slammed his shoulder into his son's, and said, "Put some goddamn pubic hair on that, son."

A graduate of the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA,

Hussar keeps a crazy schedule, going to bed around 6 a.m. and waking up around 3 p.m., and maintains a signature facial hair style that he says is an homage to his favorite painters from the turn of the century. "It's more horrible than ever," he says of the extra-long goatee. "In fact, I was just in Starbucks to pick up a coffee and, yeah, it's always good for a chuckle from someone."

He's also realized that other people alter their appearances with the help of his pieces. "I had never even considered that my work could translate into a tattoo," he admits. "But I love it. I think it's flattering as all hell ... some of them are really bad, though."

For his own ink, Hussar has the word "Overkill" on his knuckles and a dagger on his forearm—both done by Henry Lewis from Skull & Sword in San Francisco—and a sacred heart and skull piece on his left forearm by Kat Von D. "You sort of grow up thinking that people with tattoos and tattoo artists are promoted as being these horrible, degenerate lowlifes," the artist says. "But things have changed—they're so genuine and they have hearts of gold." —Kara Pound

V22
1965
LOS ANGELES

inked life | SPEND

'EAR ME NOW

The House of Marley serves up crispy beats through these People Get Ready earbuds (\$40, the houseofmarley.com), which come in Rasta colors with a dope wood grain.



DEAD RINGERS

The zombie onslaught is upon us with AMC's *The Walking Dead* and its macabre new line of toy figures, including this poor guy (\$15, bigbadtoystore.com). Point him in Ken's direction.



GRIND HOUSE

At first blush, this Skate Study House The Godfather Lounge Chair (price upon request, skatestudyhouse.com) looks like the iconic Eames Lounge Chair, but it's actually made out of skateboard decks.



GOT IT ON LOCK

Since some shy-sters will see a lock and still try to pick it, send a warning message with this Marc Jacobs Don't Fuck With My Shit lock (\$32, Marc Jacobs stores).



ON THE WALL

Rich Moorhead takes busted skateboard decks and tiles walls with them (prices vary, artofboard.com). The process helps save the environment, he gives a portion of the proceeds to the Tony Hawk Foundation, and the effect looks much cooler than wainscot.



2:35:45PM

Black Widow

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ARM CANDLE

Etsy seller Dellamorteco describes this 10" tentacle candlestick holder (\$75; etsy.com/shop/Dellamorteco) as a "Lovecraftian horror." We say buy nine and make yourself a Lovecraftian menorah.



PULP FASHION

To take a page from *Johnny Dangerously*: "My mother threw out one of my comic books once ... Once." Comic Salvage saves neglected comics art and fashions it into jewelry, such as these cufflinks (\$23; etsy.com/shop/comicsalvage).



RIDING DIRTY

Shred the sandbox with the cherry 1:6 scale dirt bike (\$16, metal.mulisha.com) of Metal Mulisha's Brian Deegan.



THUNDER STRUCK

Mechanix Wear's new MRT 0.5 M-Pact Glove (\$45, mechanix.com) ramps up protection without compromising dexterity—and the rubber exoskeleton looks sick.



HOLY SHEET

Vice Merchants is an art collective that transforms your bed into a wonderland of intrigue and adventure with sheet sets such as this 400-thread-count Egyptian cotton Poppy Playground set (\$199 for queen set, vicemerchants.com).

SAINTS & SINNERS TOUR

BETWEEN THE BURIED AND ME

animals



leaders

TESSERACT

10/27 CHARLOTTE THE FILLMORE

10/28 SILVER SPRING THE FILLMORE

10/29 ASBURY PARK THE STONE PONY

10/30 BOSTON HOUSE OF BLUES

11/1 RICHMOND HAT FACTORY

11/2 MYRTLE BEACH HOUSE OF BLUES

11/3 TAMPA THE RITZ YBOR

11/4 FT. LAUDERDALE REVOLUTION

11/5 ORLANDO THE BEACHAM

11/6 BIRMINGHAM ZYDECO

11/8 INDIANAPOLIS EGYPTIAN ROOM

11/9 CLEVELAND HOUSE OF BLUES

11/10 DETROIT ST. ANDREWS HALL

11/11 CHICAGO HOUSE OF BLUES

11/12 CINCINNATI BOGART'S

11/13 ST. LOUIS THE PAGEANT

11/15 LITTLE ROCK DOWNTOWN MUSIC

11/16 NEW ORLEANS HOUSE OF BLUES

11/17 HOUSTON HOUSE OF BLUES

11/18 DALLAS HOUSE OF BLUES

11/19 AUSTIN EMO'S OUTSIDE

11/20 SAN ANTONIO BACKSTAGE LIVE

11/22 TUCSON RIALTO THEATRE

11/23 LAS VEGAS HOUSE OF BLUES

11/25 ANAHEIM HOUSE OF BLUES

11/26 LOS ANGELES HOUSE OF BLUES

11/27 SAN FRANCISCO THE FILLMORE

11/29 BOISE KNITTING FACTORY

11/30 SPOKANE KNITTING FACTORY

12/1 CALGARY THE REPUBLIK

12/2 EDMONTON STARLITE ROOM

12/3 SASKATOON LOUIS' PUB

12/4 WINNIPEG GARRICK CENTRE

12/6 PITTSBURGH ALTAR BAR

12/7 TORONTO PHOENIX THEATRE

12/8 MONTREAL CLUB SODA

12/9 CLIFTON PARK NORTHERN LIGHTS

12/10 PHILADELPHIA TLA

* SAINTS & SINNERS
FESTIVAL DATES

NORTH AMERICAN TOUR 2011

LIVE NATION

Metal Blade
Records

PROSTHEMIC
RECORDS

CENTURY
MEDIA

good fight

WETON
RECORDS

INK ON THE STREET

WHO: James Blackmon

SPOTTED AT: Madison Square Park, New York City

WHERE HE GETS TATTOOED: My whole right forearm is an Italian-artwork-inspired Roman Catholic vision of purgatory and was done by Luca Natalini, who circulates between New York City's tri-state area and Italy. I was raised in a very religious setting, so to me this was a way to both acknowledge and rebuke some of those teachings. My tattoos directly affect the way I dress. As soon as I started getting tattooed I immediately began to cut all the sleeves off my shirts.

WHAT HE'S WEARING: Mishka Panic Poplin shirt, Statue t-shirt, and hat

BRAND BACKSTORY: Mikhail Bortnik and Greg Rivera founded Миска, or Mishka (meaning "bear cub" in Russian), in 2003 and have clawed their own path through the homogenous street wear world, beginning humbly as a small T-shirt upstart and maturing into a full-blown creative powerhouse of cutting and sewing. With nostalgic lettering and forward-thinking illustrations, their clothes display great originality. Mishka makes you want to look—or, in the case of their various "eyeball" pieces, look away.

WHAT ELSE HE'S WEARING: Ralph Lauren sneakers; H&M black jeans



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THANK GOD THEY DON'T ALL

Groom Up

TO BE

SOCCER MOMS

PHOTOGRAPHY BOOK

ANGELS WITH OUR FACES



Mainstream society's prevailing gold standard in beauty has been the buxom blonde with taut, pristine, tanned skin and eyes as blue and chaste as a fjord. But INKED's duty has always been to show the diversity of the girls next door and prove that some ink, some piercings, and some edge can be just as gorgeous. Gary Cook shares that sentiment, and after five years of photographing our kind of girls, he has published a 304-page collection called *Angelsmisfits* (\$33; angelsmisfits.com). While flipping through the book, I realized what separates women in our society from the tra-

ditional world of glamour—aside from the tattoos—is their eyes. There's usually a vapid emptiness in the eyes of those girls on dorm room posters, but the eyes of the angels/misfits demonstrate a light, a connection, a sense of person, and a journey. "We make the environment interesting," Cook writes on behalf of his subjects and culture. "We are a colorful piece of the puzzle that makes it even more beautiful to look at when all the pieces come together." The girls in *Angelsmisfits* are more colors than blonde, tan, and blue, and I find that extremely appealing. —Rocky Rakovic

MOVIES



THE THING

Despite the mirroring qualities, this is not a remake of John Carpenter's masterpiece *The Thing*. It's a prequel. Horror gurus know that the shape-shifting creature in the original film was unearthed by Norwegian scientists, and this is the story of that team. Since we can't have a whole movie with Norwegians and subtitles, the director threw in a couple of Americans, including a grad student played by Mary Elizabeth Winstead. Let's hope they stick to practical special effects like the 1982 film; who needs another CGI shit-storm monster? —Gilbert Macias



ANONYMOUS

A period film about a Shakespeare conspiracy from Roland Emmerich, director of *2012*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, and *Independence Day*? Set in Elizabethan England, *Anonymous* explores an intriguing issue: Who actually created all of the literature credited to William Shakespeare? The movie revolves around the political scandals and schemes of greedy nobles lusting for the power of the throne and stars Rhys Ifans, Vanessa Redgrave, and David Thewlis—it's not Emmerich's typical big-star-power cast, but they're great actors nonetheless. —G.M.

DVDs

WE ARE THE NIGHT
(WIR SIND DIE NACHT)

From Germany comes probably one of the best vampire movies in recent years. It's like some sort of hybrid of *The Hunger* and *The Lost Boys* with a touch of a darker *Sex and the City*. The story follows Lena, a grungy petty thief who gets sucked into the world of a female vampire clique led by Louise, an immortal underground club owner who showers her girls with luxuries, drugs, and other pleasures of a high-end nightlife. Make sure you watch it in German with English subtitles; the English dubbed track ruins the experience. —G.M.

FRIDAY THE 13TH:
THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION

For Halloween, one of the greatest '80s slasher series of all time knocks on your door with this new box set. This limited edition compilation also includes a replica of Jason's hockey mask and a collector's booklet. Deluxe editions of the first eight films are here (*Friday the 13th* up to *Friday the 13th VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan*), with hours of bonus features and deleted scenes. You even get 3-D glasses for *Friday the 13th Part 3* and that awesome mask. It's only on DVD for now, so expect the inevitable Blu-ray down the road. —G.M.

BOOK

THE INKED
WONDERS OF
THE WORLD

There are plenty of tomes that touch on specific genres of tattooing, but Marisa Kakoulas and Michael Kaplan compiled all the best of the world between two covers. *Tattoo World* is illustrated by visually breathtaking art forms of tattoos from Japan and India to the Americas and Europe. The book features more than 1,000 pieces from 125 artists and hits stores this month. If you're looking to broaden your horizons, *Tattoo World* is an atlas where all roads lead to good ink. —Nadia Kadri



FALL 2011

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VIDEO GAMES

**BATMAN: ARKHAM CITY**

PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, WII U, XBOX 360, PC

The caped crusader's renaissance continues with the follow-up to 2009's acclaimed *Batman: Arkham Asylum*. The sequel begins in the aftermath of Asylum's fall and the Joker's defeat. With the institution that held Gotham City's most dangerous criminals in ruins, former warden and current mayor Quincy Sharp has walled off a decrepit section of the city and left the goons to their own devices. When Batman infiltrates the quarantined zone to stop Harvey "Two-Face" Dent from executing Catwoman, he discovers Dent isn't the only villain gunning for his head. Armed with improved gadgets like a new zip line for navigating the treacherous open world, the dark knight encounters The Joker, Riddler, and other not-so-friendly faces from the famed comic books. **Play If You Like:** *Batman: Arkham Asylum*, *Assassin's Creed*, *The Dark Knight* —Matt Bertz

**NHL 12**

PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360

With the NBA facing a pending lockout and the NHL coming off record ratings, hockey has center ice all to itself this year. To capitalize, *NHL 12* brings star power with legendary players like Wayne Gretzky and Gordie Howe. By leveling up your own created player in the revamped Be a Pro mode, you can unlock nine legends who etched their names in the history books. If you prefer to build a winning team from scratch, begin your quest for the Cup by making smart moves via the improved trade engine, drafting future stars, and signing away prized free agents. With on-ice improvements like jostling in front of the net, signature traits that make star players skate and shoot like their real-life counterparts, and goalie fights, puckheads rejoice. **Play If You Like:** *Gretzky: Great One & The Next Ones*, *Broad Street Bullies*, *Old Time Hockey* —M.B.

**RAGE**

PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360, PC, IPHONE

The legendary creators of video game classics like *Wolfenstein*, *Doom*, and *Quake* are back with their first new IP in more than a decade. *Rage* takes id Software's tried and true first-person shooter gameplay, mixes in some high-octane dune buggy races, and tops it off with a deep RPG-like customization system to deliver its most ambitious title yet. With a devastating asteroid headed toward Earth, world leaders agree to cryogenically freeze their best and brightest deep underground. Instead of finding survivors hard at work rebuilding society to its former glory, you emerge from the slumber years later to find a vicious dog-eat-dog world filled with power-hungry factions and dangerous mutants. Nothing a few thousand bullets can't fix, right? **Play If You Like:** *Borderlands*, *Mad Max*, *Fallout 3* —M.B.

**THE Inked PLAYLIST**

BY JONAH BAYER

THRICE

"Yellow Belly"

If you're convinced the best alternative music came out in the '90s, you haven't heard Thrice.

DAN ANDRIANO IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM

"It's Gonna Rain All Day"

Alkaline Trio's co-frontman's vocals take on a whole new level of emotional depth.

BLINK-182

"Heart's All Gone"

The band revisits the upbeat pop-punk that made them superstars.

GYM CLASS HEROES FEATURING ADAM LEVINE

"Stereo Hearts"

This summer anthem is so timeless that we're listening to it year-round.

HORRIBLE CROWES

"Behold the Hurricane"

Brian Fallon's side project sees him easing back the tempos and channeling Tom Waits.

HOT WATER MUSIC

"The Fire, the Steel, the Tread"

The first new material from Hot Water Music in seven years shows that these punk icons only improve with age.

MUTEMATH

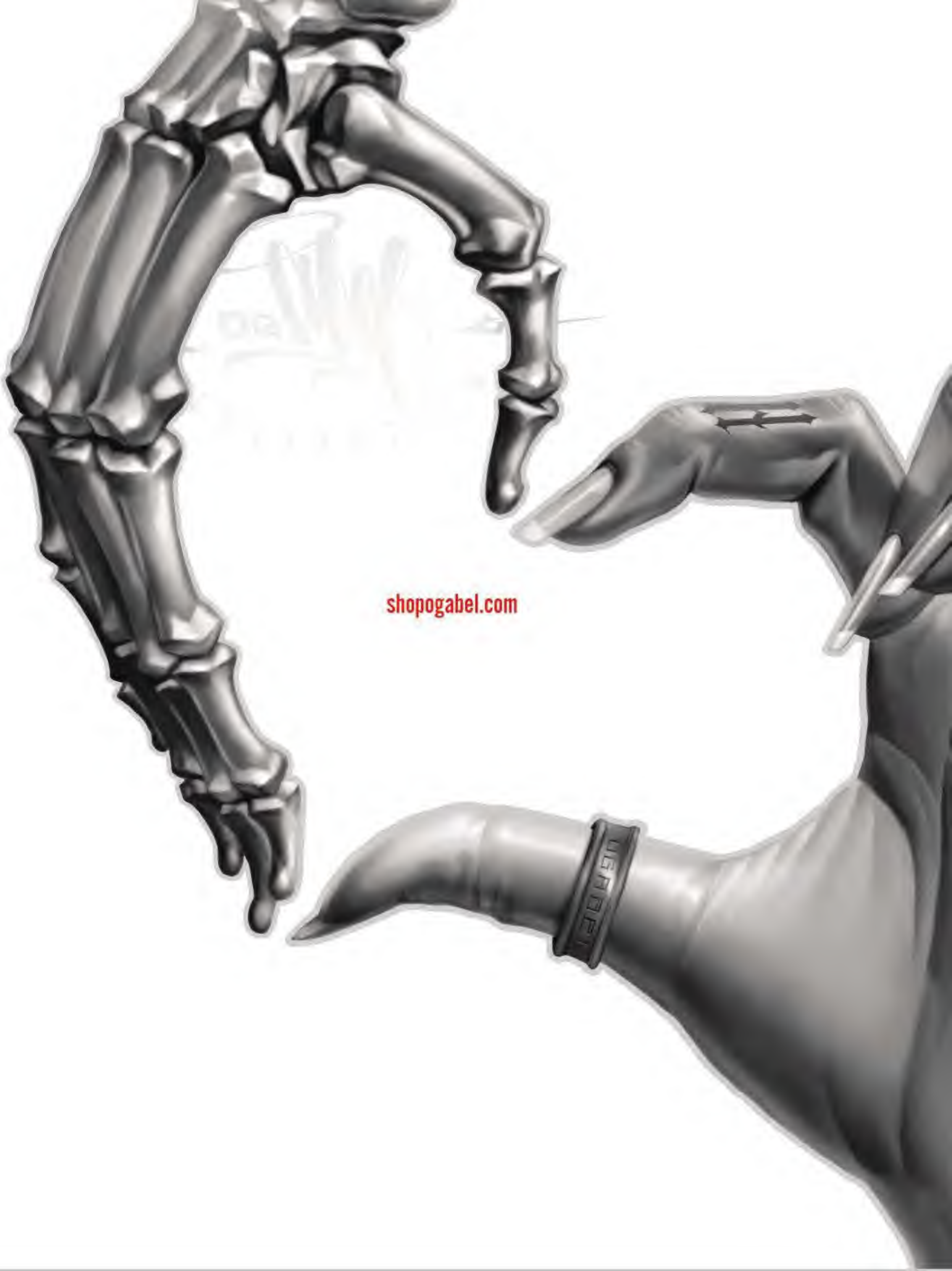
"Allies"

Think progressive rock and funk can't peacefully coexist? Listen to the latest offering from these New Orleans-based rockers.

PEBS

"We Drove All Night"

Buck-O-Nine frontman Jon Pebsworth's twangy solo debut is a punch in the gut.



shopogabel.com

SOLE SURVIVOR

Step up your foot care regime.

Take a look down. Ah, yes, there they are: your feet. You know, the gnarly appendages found at the bottoms of your legs. If you keep those puppies permanently encased in socks to hide them, you're not alone. "Most men don't take care of their feet," says Tom Kelley, director of operations for men-only Nickel Spa in New York City. "The biggest complaint we get is about dry, flaky skin and toenail discoloration. Fungus and infections are also major concerns," Kelley adds. The bottom line: You can't just adopt an "out of sight, out of mind" mentality when it comes to your feet.

We're not suggesting you join your lady friends for a weekly pedicure, but there are quick and easy things you can (and should) do in the privacy of your own bathroom. "Paying just a little attention to your feet can go a long way. Every guy should be clipping and filing his nails and washing and exfoliating to get rid of dirt, sweat, and bacteria," explains Kelley. So take the DIY approach and start with this arsenal of essentials. We're not promising that anyone will want to suck your toes, but at least you'll finally be able to loose the socks during sex. —Melanie Rud



PEDEGG FOR MEN

It may look like a cheese grater, but there's a reason this wonder tool (\$9, amazon.com) is an infomercial success. File off the super dry skin on your heels and prepare to be amazed.



J.A. HENCKELS TOENAIL CLIPPER

Tame those talons using this extra-sharp and powerful tool (\$19, groominglounge.com) that comes with a built-in catcher for all the clippings.



EARTH THERAPEUTICS PUMICE STONE

This heavy-duty slougher (\$3, Ulta), made from volcanic rock, buffs the tough skin on soles or toes. Use on dry feet for best results.



AMENITY FOOT SPRAY

An invaluable do-it-all, this spray (\$32, getamenity.com) keeps feet dry while eliminating the bacteria that cause fun things like athlete's foot, fungal infections, and odor.

And this little piggy went to the tattoo shop ...



MODELS: HATTIE WATSON, GINGER ANDERSON

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THE MAKE

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 FRI, OCT 14 HARTFORD, CT WEBSTER THEATRE
 SAT, OCT 15 ASBURY PARK, NJ STONE PONY
 SUN, OCT 16 WASHINGTON, DC FILLMORE
 MON, OCT 17 PHILADELPHIA, PA THEATRE OF LIVING ARTS
 TUE, OCT 18 BOSTON, MA HOUSE OF BLUES
 THU, OCT 20 DETROIT, MI ST. ANDREW'S HALL
 FRI, OCT 21 INDIANAPOLIS, IN EGYPTIAN ROOM
 SAT, OCT 22 CINCINNATI, OH BOGART'S
 SUN, OCT 23 CLEVELAND, OH HOUSE OF BLUES
 TUE, OCT 25 COLUMBUS, OH SKULLY'S
 WED, OCT 26 CHICAGO, IL HOUSE OF BLUES
 THU, OCT 27 MILWAUKEE, WI THE RAVE II
 FRI, OCT 28 IOWA CITY, IA THE BLUE MOOSE
 SAT, OCT 29 KANSAS CITY, MO THE BEAUMONT
 MON, OCT 31 DENVER, CO THE SUMMIT
 WED, NOV 02 SAN FRANCISCO, CA REGENCY BALLROOM
 THU, NOV 03 SAN DIEGO, CA HOUSE OF BLUES
 FRI, NOV 04 LAS VEGAS, NV HOUSE OF BLUES
 SAT, NOV 05 ANAHEIM, CA HOUSE OF BLUES
 SUN, NOV 06 TUCSON, AZ THE ROCK
 TUE, NOV 08 AUSTIN, TX EMO'S
 WED, NOV 09 HOUSTON, TX HOUSE OF BLUES
 THU, NOV 10 DALLAS, TX HOUSE OF BLUES
 SAT, NOV 12 GAINESVILLE, FL DOUBLE DOWN (COMMON GROUNDS)
 SUN, NOV 13 TAMPA, FL STATE THEATER
 MON, NOV 14 TALLAHASSEE, FL FLOYD'S
 WED, NOV 16 ATLANTA, GA MASQUERADE
 THU, NOV 17 ORLANDO, FL HOUSE OF BLUES
 FRI, NOV 18 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL REVOLUTION
 SAT, NOV 19 JACKSONVILLE, FL FREEBIRD LIVE

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 10/14/11 HOUSE OF BLUES CHICAGO, IL (17+)
 10/15/11 HOUSE OF BLUES CHICAGO, IL (ALL AGES)
 10/16/11 THE FILLMORE DETROIT, MI
 10/18/11 TLA PHILADELPHIA, PA
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 10/21/11 THE FILLMORE CHARLOTTE, NC
 10/22/11 NORVA NORFOLK, VA
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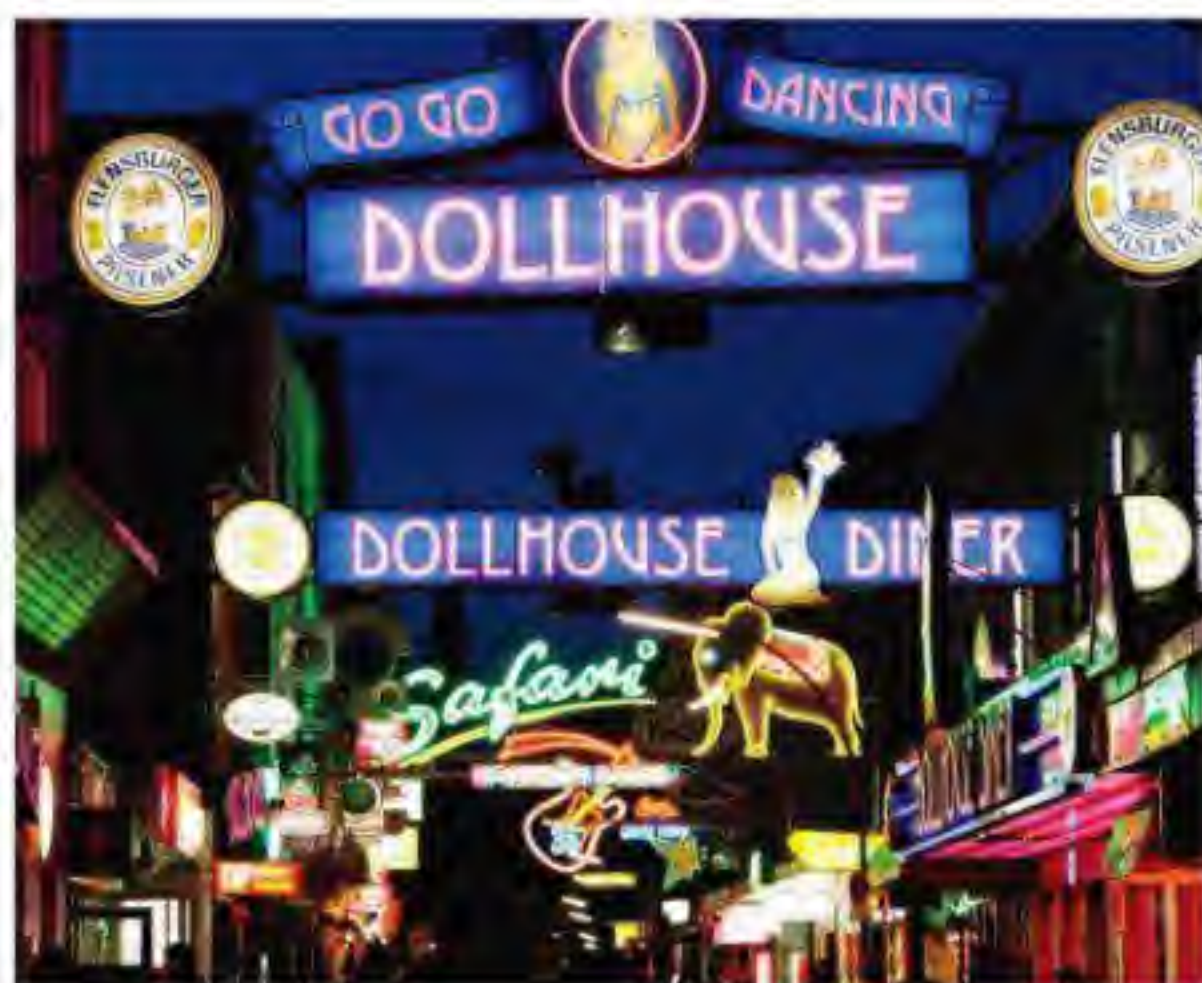
HOUSE OF BLUES
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GERMAN ROAD TRIP

Oktoberfest is cool, but the jaunt from Wolfenbüttel to Hamburg is legendary.

Munich has its yearly Oktoberfest from late September to October, but set your GPS northward toward the small town of Wolfenbüttel and you'll find Germans are more than happy to share a drink with you any time of the year—and it doesn't have to be beer (Wolfenbüttel is home to Jägermeister's original processing plant and still serves as the company's headquarters). After a visit, take advantage of the nonexistent speed limit as you set off north on A7, the longest German autobahn. About two hours later, arrive in Hamburg, where you can check out local tattoo shops, explore one of Europe's most famous red-light districts, and cap it all off with a *bier*. —Todd Weinberger



SEXIEST STROLL IN THE CITY There's always something to see along the Reeperbahn (between Holstenstraße and Helgoländer Allee, Hamburg), which cuts through Hamburg's nightlife district of St. Pauli. Lined with sex shops, brothels, and music venues, this street is home to the club where John Lennon famously sang a set with a toilet seat hung around his neck. Prostitution is still legal, so keep that in mind before you decide to practice your high school German on any of the cute girls hanging around—you never know what you might end up agreeing to.



BEST BED Just a short walk from Hamburg's red-light district is the Empire Riverside Hotel (Bernhard-Nocht-Straße 97; empire-riverside.de). The sleek, white-walled rooms and modern beds are a welcome sight at the end of the long day, but if you're too fired up to sleep, take the elevator to 20 Up, the "Sky-bar" where you can get a bird's-eye view of the city.



BEST FLOAT After your drive from Wolfenbüttel to Hamburg, get off the road and let someone else do the steering with a boat tour of the city aboard one of Rainer Abicht's barges (St. Pauli Landungsbrücken Brücke 1; abicht.de). From the decks, you'll see the city's impressive network of bridges (there are more in Hamburg than either Venice or Amsterdam) and take in the range of architectural monuments, from Gothic-style churches to the more modern developments.



BEST PLACE TO SEE SPIRITS Take a guided tour of Jägermeister's original plant (Mast-Jägermeister SE, Jägermeisterstraße 7, Wolfenbüttel; call 49-5331-81-0 to book a tour) and you'll get to hit the herb cellars, where the company stores the 56 different seeds, spices, and dried flowers that make up the liquor's top-secret recipe. Don't leave before you check out the 10,000-liter oak barrels where bartenders' favorite herbal brew is macerated for a year before bottling.



BEST PLACE FOR A SOUVENIR Commemorate your Deutschland adventure with a tattoo from one of Hamburg's many talented artists. Check out the work at Ink Affair (Hoheluftchaussee 70, Hamburg; ink-affair.de) or the Oldest Tattoo Shop in Germany (Hamburger Berg 8, Hamburg; die-aelteste.de).

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Clockwise from top left: Suzuki quad, Yamaha dirt bike, Kawasaki Jet Ski, Polaris snowmobile

THRILL RIDES

Make your weekend drive an off-roader.

I'm not so much a bumper sticker guy, but if forced—and if there weren't the choice of Calvin peeing on something—I'd have to go with "My other ride is a sport vehicle." Then again, you'd never see it, because I'd be towing said vehicle behind my bumper. You have your two-car families, and then you have me, someone who thinks the extra set of keys should go to a toy, like one of these suckers.

2011 KAWASAKI JET SKI 800 SX-R 1 PASSENGER

There are only a few things in life better than creating your own waves in a Jet Ski, the motorcycle of the sea—and Kenny Powers's play toy. Kawasaki's new stand-up offers a finger throttle and doesn't just look mint; it can thrust up to 699 pounds, so you are standing on a rocket. The two-stroke engine combined with a lightweight fiberglass hull zips you through the water so fast, old man Poseidon will raise up and yell at you to get off his lawn.

2012 POLARIS 800 RUSH PRO-R LE SNOWMOBILE

It's hell on skis. The snowmobile has the sled of a trail-blazer and the tenacity of a grizzly bear. While the powder may look placid there is always the risk of hard, bumpy snow underneath, so Polaris fashioned Walker Evans shocks to the front of the ride so

you don't go ass over teakettle when the trail gets bumpy. The 800 Rush Pro-R LE also comes with electronic start and the option for a security system that makes sure your sled doesn't slip down the hill when you pull over to write your name in the snow.

2011 YAMAHA WR450F DIRT BIKE Another push-to-start animal, this dirt bike chews up mud while sling-shotting you forward. The titanium, five-valve engine has high over-rev capacity and crisp, linear throttle response, while the battery sits low to give you more ballast in handling, and the work-style clutch lets you adjust on the fly. It's the perfect engineering of weight, speed, torque, and durability that will no doubt make you king of the mountain.

2011 SUZUKI KINGQUAD 500AXI WITH POWER STEERING It's both a workhorse and a recreational vehicle that was born of Suzuki's high-performance motorcycle technology; the fuel injection system gives it cherry throttle response and quick engine starts no matter the temperature outside. The power steering means that you can navigate the ATV without feeling that you are fighting a Shake Weight. And this KingQuad comes in a few color schemes, but all have slick black rims. —Rocky Rakovic



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INKED PEOPLE

SNOWBOARDER. CHEF. CHOREOGRAPHER.

"If I go out there and have a ton of fun, that'd be a pretty good goal for me before I retire."
—Janna Meyen-Weatherby, snowboarder

PHOTO BY MATT NAGER



inked people

JANNA MEYEN-WEATHERBY

What's the hardest part of snowboarding for Janna Meyen-Weatherby? Having her ink covered up. Standing out has always been a specialty for the girl who fashioned her first snowboard by duct-taping her snow boots to a board. By 13, only three years after taking up the sport, she'd won the 1991 U.S. Open title. Throughout her career, she's earned six Winter X Games medals in Slopestyle (one bronze, one silver, four gold), and she won the U.S. Open title again in 2005. No wonder *Snowboarder Magazine* named Meyen-Weatherby the most influential female snowboarder in history.

Her live-out-loud lifestyle, which included a good deal of partying in the early stages of her career, can largely be attributed to her favorite piece of advice: "If what you're doing you're hiding from others, then maybe you shouldn't be doing it." The intricate ink adorning her arms and chest is a nice accent for her attitude. "[Each of] my tattoos has always been a piece of me," she says. "I put my faith into them."

And Meyen-Weatherby's tattoos began as just that: attempts to bring her personality and faith to the outside for all to see. The majority were done at Atlas Tattoo in Portland, OR, but she also has a few from her travels. As a result, her life can be traced through her ink, with the first few pieces influenced by the BMX and skateboarding scene of her youth. As her lifestyle changed drastically, her artwork changed with her, taking on a religious theme as her passions shifted toward Christianity, something she doesn't hide from others, in keeping with her personal creed.

Several years ago, Meyen-Weatherby visited her newly reformed brother,

and with the help of his faith she put her partying days behind and gained a new, spiritual outlook that's reflected in pieces such as the "Thy Will Be Done" across her chest and "God's Daughter," her favorite tattoo, on her neck.

She says her new focus has also helped her in competition. For example, when Meyen-Weatherby checked into Japan's Asian Open in 2009 she was given the wrong information about the pre-qualifying rounds and ended up late to her event. Nonetheless, she calmly hopped on the lift at the last minute and was able to tackle the trail without any preparation. She earned a score high enough to continue and moved on without a sweat, something she claims she never would have been able to handle before her dramatic lifestyle change. "I would have lost my mind," she says. Instead, she didn't just remain calm about it—she laughed it off.

Meyen-Weatherby prides herself in her newfound faith and, always outspoken, brandishes her neck tattoo without fear of criticism. Her confidence is clear on the course, where she calmly outboards contestants who weren't even born when she first picked up the sport. But after 20 years of competition, Meyen-Weatherby has begun thinking about the next chapter of her life. She married in 2008 and has listed wanting to start a family as one of her main reasons for her upcoming retirement in 2012. Asked if she had any further goals before her retirement, Janna seemed to be pretty satisfied with what she has accomplished. "I just want to have fun now with zero obligations," she says. "If I go out there and have a ton of fun, that'd be a pretty good goal for me before I retire." —Cristina Guarino



'Gansett Chili

Serves 6-10

- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 lb ground pork
- ½ lb chorizo
- 2 Spanish onions, diced
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 red bell peppers, seeded and diced
- 1 habanero pepper (including seeds if you like it hot), minced
- 2 Narragansett Lager tall boys
- 4 cups cooked pinto beans, drained
- 2 carrots, peeled and diced
- ¾ cup chili powder
- 1 tbsp ground Cascabel pepper
- 1 tbsp ground Urfa pepper
- 1 tbsp ground Aleppo pepper

1 cinnamon stick
8 cups (64 oz) canned tomatoes,
crushed with the juice
Salt and pepper, to taste
Butter, for serving

Brown meats in large pot. Add onions, garlic, bell pepper, and habanero. Cook until onions are tender. Break time! Drink the first Narragansett. Add beans, carrots, spices, and cinnamon. Cook over medium heat 5 minutes. Add other can of Narragansett; cook for 5 minutes, then add tomatoes. Lower heat to very low simmer. Season with salt and pepper; cook 45 minutes to 1 hour, until it's as thick as you like your chili. Serve with a pat of butter on top.

JAMIE BISSONNETTE

There's a poetic contrast surrounding Jamie Bissonnette that only adds to his allure: On one hand, he's a tattooed-from-head-to-toe punk and hardcore-loving beast who looks like trouble out of his chef's whites; conversely, his food is so soulfully crafted and beautiful that he's one of the more promising rising chefs in the food world, enough so to have earned him the honor of 2011 People's Best New Chef in *Food & Wine* magazine.

But where there's praise, there's a target on your back.

"To think that people are looking at you all the time ... they're looking for you to fail. For someone to say you're the best at something, that makes it worse," Bissonnette says with a piss-and-vinegar swagger.

As the chef at Coppa in Boston's South End, Bissonnette creates food that is just like his life, as edgy and polarizing (he champions offal like pig's head, tail, and ear) as it is comforting and flavorful. And while the kitchen life has brought Bissonnette success, he's the first to admit it's turned him into one grumpy, uncouth bastard.

"Because of how long I've been cooking, I completely lack the social graces most people have. It takes a conscious effort for me not to swear all

the time," he utters sans swear.

Though he's mistakenly dropped F-bombs during live cooking demos (his instructions for shucking oysters: "Here's how you open this fucking thing up"), when Bissonnette talks about food and tattoos his tenderness shines through, as only someone whose soul is truly happy could.

Oh, and the ink. There's a lot of it. "I've got close to 280 hours," he says. "Pretty much a tattoo on every part of my body except my left thigh—about 70 percent of my body." Nose-to-tail, if you will.

He's recently embarked on his most prized undertaking yet: A "gigundous" back piece that he's been dreaming of since he was 15. "It's a huge traditional skull with a snake wrapping through it with lightning bolts and stuff. Kind of like a more modern version of the Don't Tread on Me [flag]."

The downside of all these sleeves and other tattoos? "The more you have, the more people want to walk up to you to show you their tattoos they think are great. People are always walking up to me like, 'Check this out!' And you're like, 'Wow, that's the grim reaper taking a dump. That's not very cool, man.'" —Mike Hess



inked people

LAURIEANN GIBSON



Laurieann Gibson is your typical warrior. Well, except for that directorial Emmy nomination, choreographing everything Lady Gaga (including the “Bad Romance” video), those reality TV shows, and her position as creative director of Interscope Records. But aside from all that, she does what any ordinary warrior would do: fights battles, inner and outer, on a daily basis, which is quite obvious from the armor she wears.

Gibson’s left arm is protected by a bishop, gently shaded and emblazoned with the initials L.G., which belong to her father, who passed last year. Her suit is far from complete, but she’s carefully building it. The first piece was put in place when she was about 22 and in love. “I don’t mean love, like, puppy love. I mean love, like, it’s wrong and it makes no sense. It was like a connection of a lifetime, I didn’t even understand what hit me,” Gibson says as she steps away from the editing bay where she’s working on an upcoming Lady Gaga video. “It was a good place and it was also a dark place. It was something I didn’t want to forget. So I had to get a tattoo. It was like a battle cry.”

Over the 20 years that followed, she collected pieces with each battle victory that arose, from becoming director of choreography for Motown and Bad Boy Records to the formation of her creative company, ROM Works. Even now as she celebrates her newest TV show, *Born to Dance*, Gibson is adding to the shield on her left arm. “I’m connected to my tattoos, so I know that for me I don’t really have a choice,” she says. “It’s a call to get that part of my armor. I need that on my arm now so that I can continue feeling like I can handle what’s about to happen.”

Gibson is about to test warriors of her creation, to see if one newcomer has what it takes to be a professional dancer while under the lights and cameras of *Born to Dance*. “It’s about whether or not I can teach her in a short amount of time what she needs to know about herself and her gift, and her ability,” Gibson says with sheer determination. “That no one can bring her down, or stop her or prevent her from fighting to fulfill her dream. This show goes against the grain of everything people think a dancer should be, and you see what a real dancer is.” —*Ellen Thompson*





WE OWN THE AIR



Look up at the X Games and you'll miss the awesome ink in the crowd. Look down and you'll miss greatest exhibition in modern sports.

BY CLIFF TALLEY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOAQUIN PALTING

OCTOBER 2011 | 42









It's not so much the X Games as it is our games. For a few days every summer, Los Angeles isn't a town run by starlets fueled with Botox and cocaine, it's where action sports stars rule the Walk of Fame. In a city of unthinkable traffic jams, dirt crews and ramp builders erect harrowing tracks that will launch the brave, bold, and skilled into glory.

The X Games were indoctrinated in the '90s as the underground bastard of the Olympics, with the "X" being a nod to Generation X but functioning more as a riff on the marketing buzzword coined by non-Gen Xers: *Xtreme*. The only people under 33 who use the term *extreme sports* are the frat boys who cheer each other with crappy beer when Shaun White does his thing in the Olympics. (Speaking of which, it's time the Olympics ingests a few more of our sports. Nothing personal against male gymnastics, but when's the last time 100,000-plus showed up to watch a dude work the pommel horse?)

But we've already come a long way. The X Games have had a pretty solid run since the inaugural event held in Rhode Island back in 1995. Just imagine what it must have been like back then: a ton of white dudes with bandanna-held dreadlocks and shitty ink pounding lemon-lime Gatorades while getting all stoked to see the street luge nut balls blow a high-speed turn and slam into a wall of hay bales. And they were just killing time until the extreme women's speed climbing got under way.

Over the years X Games has been host to a plethora of dope and not-so-dope action sports. As a cinematographer in the motocross industry with a general love for all things motorbike, I have got to say that my favorite events usually involve anything with two wheels and a motor, and this year all of the events—from skateboarding and BMX to motocross—were pretty damn inspiring and demanded a healthy dose of respect. That wasn't always the case; some of the lamest circus tricks I have ever seen were at the X Games, including super-modified snow shovel racing and skysurfing (it was like they took a Dan Cortese *MTV Sports* segment from the '90s as the blueprint).

I trip on how some of the original people are still involved and reminisce about how there was free admission before it became so corporate. (And corporate it is; I work for ESPN and still had to buy tickets for my girlfriend and her family at \$40 a pop!) Things sure have changed in recent years, but that's what happens when you have a superior product. And this year the X Games were better than ever. Instead of having multiple venues that spread the love too thin, the action was all at the Los Angeles Staples Center. It amplified the vibe tenfold and effectively corralled the best collection





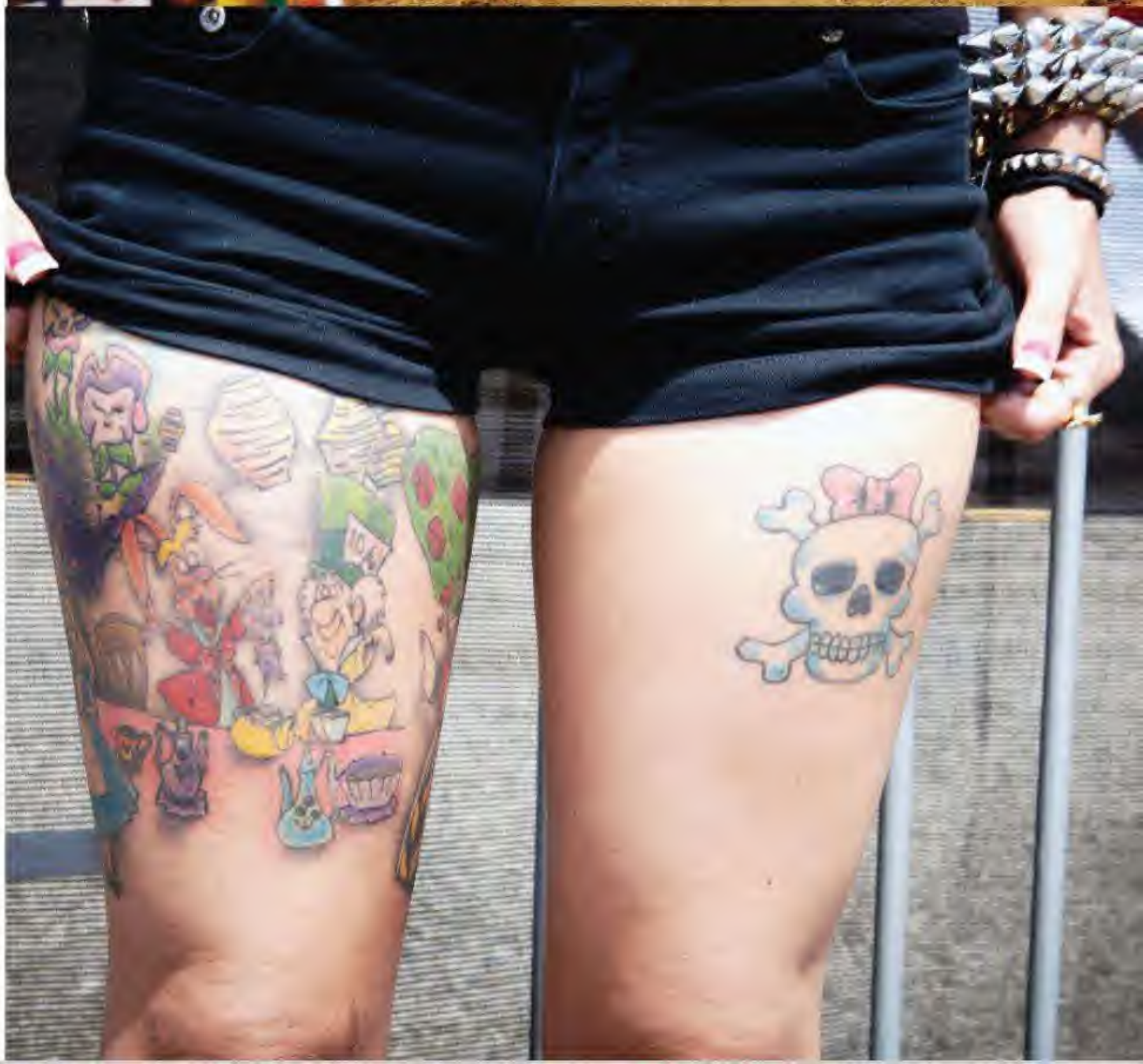
of ink in the action sports world under one roof. It also made the usual cliques even more apparent. There was a ring of old clingers or “bro-brahs” and “yeah-guys” that lingered around the various staging areas, catering lounges, and motorcycle pits. These are dudes who have a friend in the industry who gets them a credential every year, and they love to talk about how “OG” they are. When you compare their tattoos to some of the fresher crowd, it becomes apparent that not only have the X Games progressed, but so has ink in general.

If you chill near one of the tunnels and watch the passersby, you'll see bodies that are patched with scars or tattoos, and in some unfortunate cases the two collide, resulting in smeared ink. These guys are a different breed. Unlike athletes in other sports that rely on rules and scoring, the majority of action sports disciples are judged on style and creativity. Gold medals aren't awarded for simply pounding the pavement—you need to have some showmanship. It's no wonder the winners usually express themselves through tattoos.

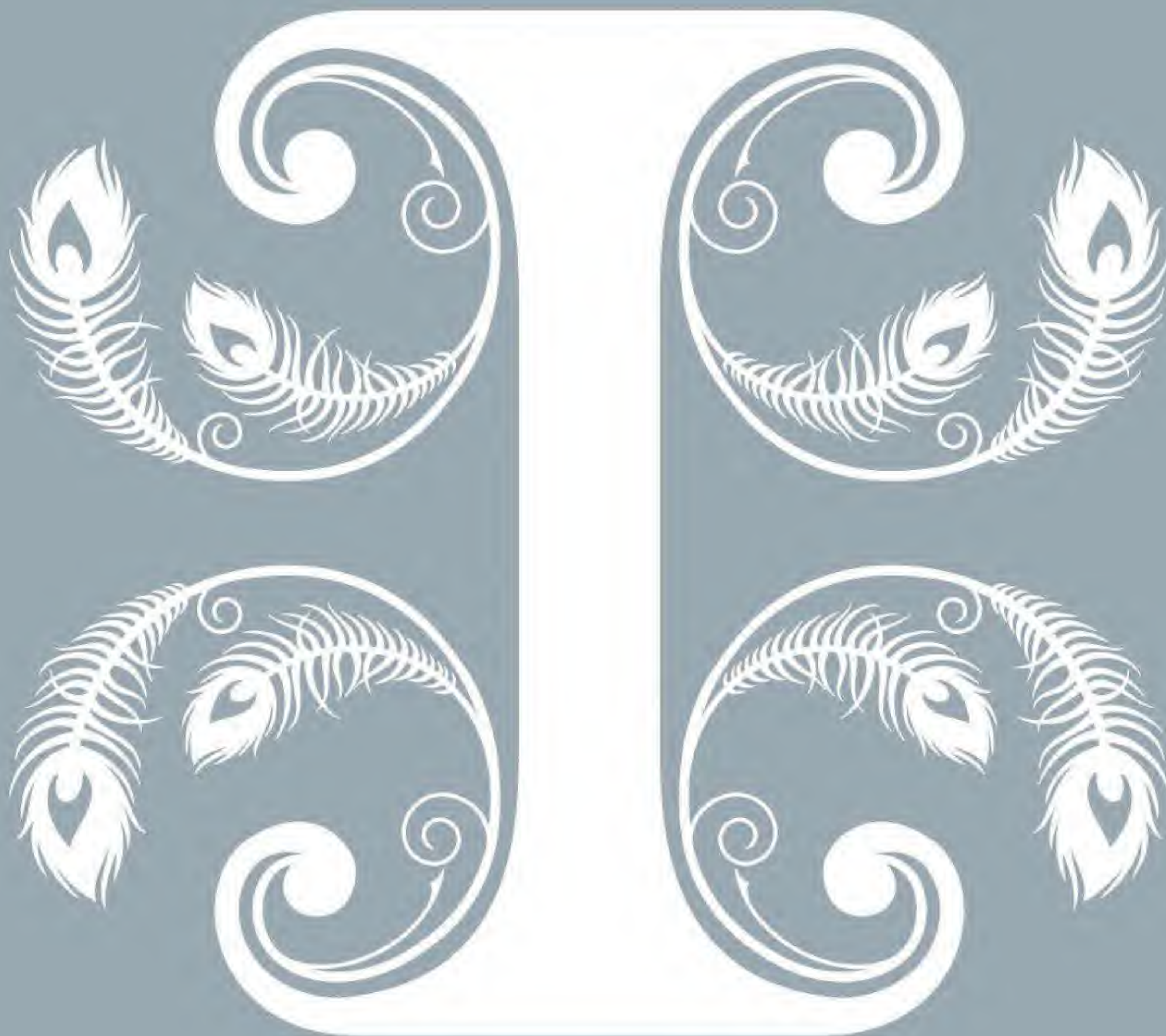
“I THINK GUYS WITH TATTOOS HAVE A DIFFERENT CHARACTER—THEY JUST WANT TO BE DIFFERENT AND RUN THEIR OWN STYLE.” —BRIAN DEEGAN

Some of the best belong to the MX athletes, like Carey Hart, motocross speed and style competitor and co-owner of the tattoo shop Hart and Huntington. “Tattooing is my business, aside from me being an athlete, so it's kind of fun on a selfish level that my two passions join forces and sort of align themselves with X Games and action sports,” he told me while prepping his bike as his pop star wife Pink and their newborn kept him company. “I think it's bitchin' that athletes in general are into tattooing, and it's cool that INKED is covering the whole action-sports side of things. I'm psyched on it.”

Another tattooed athlete, Brian Deegan, pioneer of freestyle motocross and Metal Mulisha founder, is hanging out in preparation for a newish endeavor for him: a rally event. “Rally's sick because I show up and I'm not worried about getting hurt—the worst I can do is crash a half-million-dollar car,” says Deegan, who went on to win gold in rally cross. “I think I'm the only guy in rally with a tattoo. I think guys with tattoos have a different character; they just want to be different and run their own style.” That's right: We've got our own style and our own games. We own this. ■








INKED GIRL
BETTY LIPSTICK

PHOTOS BY WARWICK SAINT





Maison Close
underwear with
harness; Marlies
Dekkers bra; Fleet
bracelets; Raphael
Young booties.

Previous page: Fleet
body chain; Ruthie
Davis heels.

Honeydew bra;
Maison Close high-
waisted thong; CC
Skye earrings.



DON'T JUDGE BETTY LIPSTICK BASED ON THESE pictures; she insists she doesn't like being the center of attention. "I have always struggled with being in the spotlight. I don't really enjoy it," maintains this month's Inked Girl. She's adamant that her personality is anything but what her outward appearance dictates.

Betty calls herself an "old-school traditionalist," a steadfast believer in *please* and *thank you*. Her hobbies are similarly retro: She doesn't watch TV or "subscribe to anything pop culture related" (excluding daily Xbox gaming) and spends her free time listening to records and reading—when she's not on her motorcycle. "Fixing, repairing, rid-

ing them—I love motorcycles. The sun on my back, wind in my face, just my Twin-V, the road, and me. It's my meditation and medication," she says. Can't figure out whether Betty is more of a nice girl or a badass? She tends to have that effect on people, and intentionally so. "I like to contradict every stereotype anyone may have of me," she explains.

Using her body as a work of art is only one way she shatters perceptions: "I think when I first started getting tattoos they still had a lot of negative connotations, and I wanted to break that idea." After starting with a quarter sleeve of a Japanese dragon (a representation of newfound freedom), her self-proclaimed addiction grew—

and continues to grow. Up next, more birdcages, a signature piece from Greg Rojas of Everlasting Tattoo in San Francisco.

The two places Betty doesn't plan on inking are her neck and hands, a decision she attributes to her conservative work environment. Currently a full-time business school student (she squeezed in this interview during finals), she toys with the idea of getting her MBA or going to law school. Whatever she does in the future will be done full-throttle. "If you tell me I can't do something, I will do it and do it well," she says. In that case, a little motivation: Betty, there's no way you'll be the most-inked beauty in the industry. —Melanie Rud



Honeydew bra and underwear; Rack 75 leather string vest; Ruthie Davis heels.



Honeydew bra and
underwear; Rack 75
ripped kimono wrap.

Stylist: Ashley Abercrombie
Hair: John Blaine at opusbeauty.com
Makeup: Donald Simrock for
Margaret Maldonado



DRESS SNAPPY

Clockwise from top: New Era Philadelphia Phillies hat; New Era Baltimore Orioles hat, both neweracap.com; True Love False Idols hat, tlfi-la.com; Unit Riders cap, unitriders.com; Vans hat, vans.com; Mitchell and Ness San Diego Chargers hat, mitchellandness.com; Flat Fitty hat, flatfitty.com. Center: Etnies hat, etnies.com.

KICKING IT OLD SCHOOL

Skate and street brands go '80s retro cool with snapback caps and sportswear from the first *Teen Wolf* era.

PHOTOS BY
TOM MEDVEDICH



GYM CLASS HEROES

Clockwise from top left: Undefeated knit scarf, undefeated.com; 55DSL hooded sweatshirt, 55dsl.com; DC hat, dcshoes.com; Converse basketball shorts, macys.com; Adidas Originals sneaker, shopadidas.com; American Apparel socks, americanapparel.com; WeSC Warren jacket, wesc.com.

Yuri Ruley,
Mike Herrera,
and Tom
Wisniewski



NEW PUNK

The seminal skate
punk band is still
thrashing away.

BY CHARLIE CONNELL
PHOTOS BY JERED SCOTT



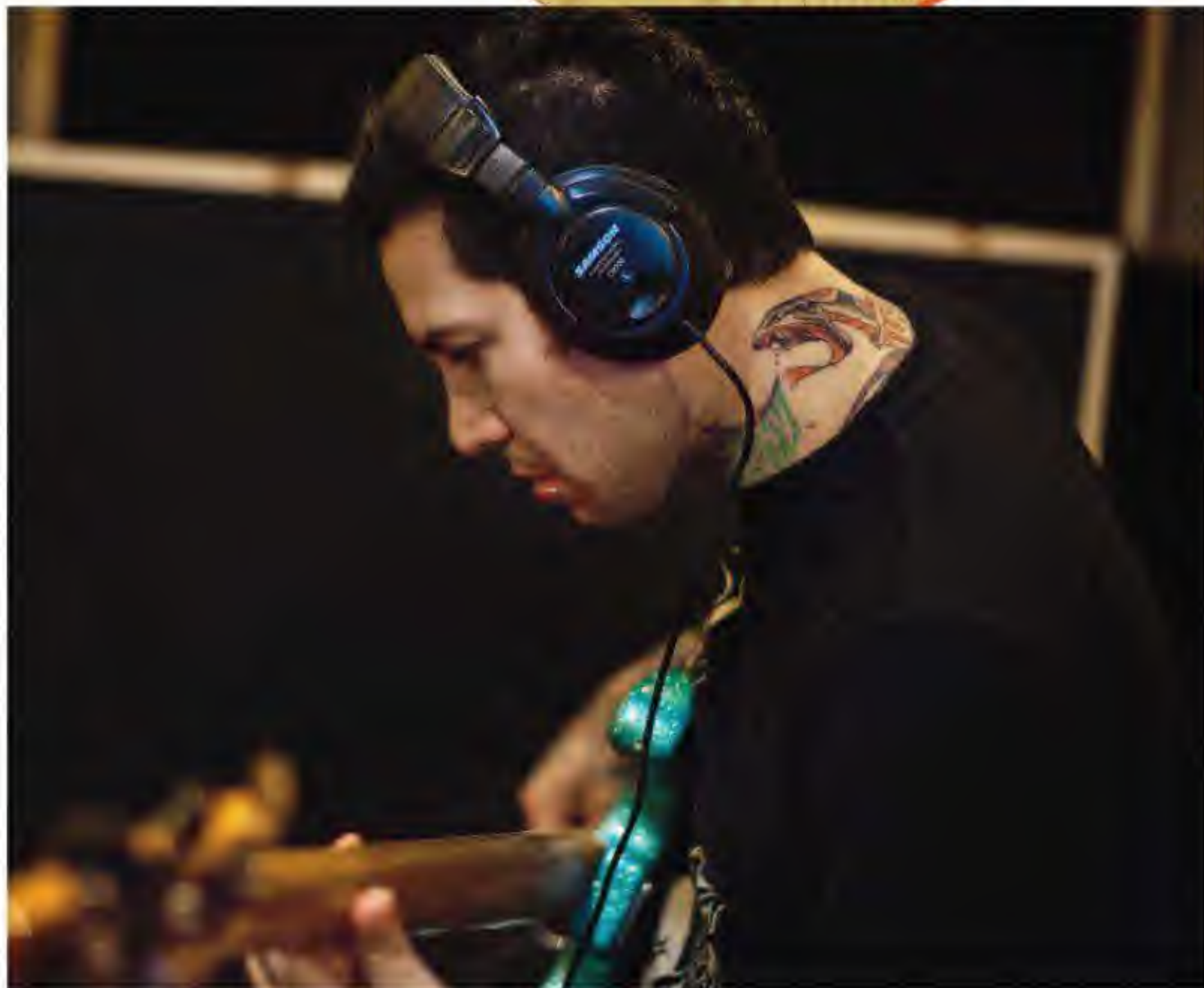
One of the casualties of growing old is having your friends slip away. Back in the day, unencumbered by jobs, lovers, offspring, and whatever else eventually fills up your life, you and the boys had all day to hang, skate, and rock out. Then you go up the vert ramp of life and responsibilities tear your crew apart; if you are lucky, you remain close with one of the guys. And you continue to make new friends, maybe at college, then at work, then amongst the group of people who had sex the same time you did and ended up with a kid in your kid's class. But these relationships are never the same. These new friends may like who you've become, but it's your teenage buddies who made you into this person.

MxPx, on the other hand, formed when they were 15, put out their first studio album when they were still in high school, and—other than losing a guitarist to college two years later—they have remained together through marriages, kids, real jobs, and other turbulence. Now they're in the studio cranking out a new album.

The pop punk band solidified in Bremerton, WA, in the early '90s with Mike Herrera, Yuri Ruley, and Tom Wisniewski. While most of the bands across the country were desperately trying to sound like Nirvana (from Aberdeen, a two-hour drive from Bremerton), they found themselves drawn to the Ramones and the Descendents. "A lot of the grunge bands were playing bars and we couldn't get into bars; we were too young," Herrera explains. "When Nirvana, Mudhoney, and bands like that were playing big, big venues they were already huge. It was cool, but we didn't get the influence in the same way as you would going to a little all-ages show."

Although their influences were from places other than their own backyards, that doesn't mean MxPx had no love for its hometown. While most punk bands sing about how much they hate where they are from ("This Place" by the Descendents and "The City With Two Faces" by Goldfinger immediately come to mind), MxPx sang the praises of home in their hit "Move to Bremerton." It took a few years, but eventually the town embraced the song and the band. "They wanted to use our song in their web campaign," Wisniewski recalls. "So I jokingly told them that we wanted the key to the city, duh. And they came back and said, 'How about we take you out to dinner too?'" Punk rock is almost always anti-establishment, so some would view this as selling out. Wisniewski sees it a little differently: "The lunatics are running the asylum, and it's pretty cool."

Herrera and Wisniewski are very passionate about their ink, so much so that the passion bleeds into some of their lyrics. In the song "Chick Magnet" they sing about a modern-day Casanova: "The guy, yeah, he's got style and it's plain to see. Smooth shoes and cool tattoos, hair pumped as tight as can be." Early on, Herrera had a lot of his work done by Sid Stankovitz in Santa Ana, CA. Since he spent so much time on tour, Herrera had the opportunity to get a lot of tattoos done in a lot of different places, with checkered results. "Over



the years on tour I would get tattoos done—about half of which are very horrible," he laughs. "So I've stopped going to randoms on tour." These days Herrera gets most of his work done by Oliver Peck from Elm Street Tattoo in Dallas and Nate Woods from Lucky Boys Tattoo parlor in Silverdale, WA.

Most of Wisniewski's tattoos are done by Katie Williams of House of Tattoo in Tacoma, WA. Wisniewski has experienced the perks of having a regular artist along with the occasional issue, such as the artist having too many ideas for his tattoos. "We talked about doing a back piece years ago, but then she drew something for my side. So I said, 'What about my back?' She said, 'Your back will be fine, we'll get to it, no big deal,'" Wisniewski says. Assuming that they would work on his back next, Wisniewski got another call from Williams saying she had an idea for his other side. While Wisniewski may have worried a little about never getting his back piece done, he knew that he was in good hands, and the tattoo on his side ended up being one of his and the artist's favorite tattoos.

Eagles, sparrows, swallows, and hawks are all standard tattoo fare, so when Wisniewski finally focused on his back piece he wanted to do something a little bit different. "I was thinking of tattoos my friends had, and no one had an owl. I was looking at pictures online and thought, Oh man, owls are pretty creepy-looking monsters," Wisniewski says. Now he is two or three sittings away from having his entire back covered with an amazing owl surrounded by maple leaves.

While MxPx's sound has definitely become more

polished since the times they were releasing music as teenagers, that shouldn't diminish their earlier work. It is all part of the process. Herrera has that same attitude toward his tattoos, especially the less impressive ones: "As tattoos get trendier you see people with perfect sleeves and everything is planned out perfectly, which is cool, of course. But I feel that me piecing it together over the years gives me a better, or at least longer, story to tell."

And as Herrera collects tattoos and MxPx live out their teenage dreams together, the real world has finally caught up. Wisniewski and Ruley no longer tour with the band, as their careers won't allow all the time off, but Wisniewski thinks that being off the road has helped the recording process this time around. Previously, the band would hit the studio and record an entire album in 10 days or so. But thanks to the rigors of life, the band has to work around their schedules and is only recording a day or two at a clip. "We're taking more time, as far as when we start recording and when we finish recording. We're also taking a bit more time as far as working parts out," Wisniewski says. "Mike and I started playing with this song; we had all intentions of just recording this one riff. Then we did all this crazy stuff and just started going for it. It made the song 10 times better in my mind. Now we have time to sit and figure out something that we may not have known even existed."

See what can happen when you stay in touch with old friends? Facebook someone you lost touch with; and if you need an excuse for contacting him, say you wanted him to know that MxPx is coming out with a new album. ■

Time Dove never Dies

It's been more than two years since freestyle motocross racer Jeremy Lusk died as a result of a trick gone wrong, but he lives on in the heart of his wife, Lauren, and in the spirit of anyone who rocks In God's Hands.

BY LAUREN LUSK PHOTOS BY JOHN DOLE





In the “go big or don’t go at all” world of action sports, mortality is omnipresent. While the athletes take calculated risks, they are still gambling with their lives every time they practice and compete, and it is that double-edged sword that commands a large audience for their stunts. Jeremy Lusk was at the top of his game, having recently earned medals in the Moto X World Championships and the X Games, when a competition in Costa Rica cost him his life. On the final trick of his run, Lusk just under-rotated the bike during a Hart Attack Indian Air Backflip and died as a result. He left behind a legacy in motocross and a devoted wife, Lauren, who has stitched his attitude into a clothing line called *In God’s Hands*, a name taken from one of his tattoos.

Being an “action sports wife” was a fairy tale for some time. I had a good life, traveled with Jeremy, and experienced so many amazing things with him. We had lots of great friends who were like family, and we all lived parallel lives. I loved my husband and supported him 100 percent. The love and life he gave me is something for which I will be forever grateful. The “action sports wife” title is a little different for me now because Jeremy is not here. I have lived and breathed both worlds, the highs and lows, the glory and the grieving. I guess now I am just so grateful for what I had, and so I try to find peace each day. I still can’t help but get anxious before big contests. The FMX community has lost some really amazing guys, all too young. Loss has become a painful reality for me. I don’t want any of my friends to have to feel the pain that I did and still do.

I am so grateful that Jeremy and I shared tat-

toos. It is something I will cherish for as long as I live. I was, and still am, proud to be his wife. I don’t really agree with people who say it is bad luck to get a name tattooed on your body. We had been together for so long, grew up together, and were finally married. We were committed and in love, and our tattoos were just another way to express our unbreakable bond. It was a special day when we got them. A friend of ours did them in our home; it was super mellow and perfect.

Jeremy had a lot more tattoos than I have—but I think they meant the same thing to both of us. He was just more daring about getting ink! Tattoos express a mix of our love for art and a way to express ourselves, to make a statement. Jeremy would get an idea or inspiration from somewhere we were traveling and have to get it tattooed. For example, we traveled all over Europe and always tried to make time to sightsee. We enjoyed the history behind the old cathedrals, and during one trip to Prague we visited a really old Gothic-style cathedral that was amazing. We took tons of pictures, and as soon as we got home, he had the pictures drawn up and got the cathedral on his arm. Jeremy also loved skulls, crazy faces, and castles. And there’s a deeper meaning behind many of his tattoos, such as his last name on his back. Everyone has his last name—but Jeremy was truly proud of who he was and where he came from, and he wanted to show that.

The story behind Jeremy’s “*In God’s Hands*” tattoo was that he was inspired by the surf movie *In God’s Hands*; he was always pushing the limit, pushing himself and everyone around him—but he always knew that at the end of the day everything was in God’s hands. Jeremy accepted God in his

heart, and his faith was unwavering. This tattoo expressed his heart and his truth. Personally, I love anything that stops me in my tracks and tugs at my heart. I’m always drawn toward lettering and inspirational words or verses. My “Faith” tattoo symbolizes a really dark time in my life when I felt lost and alone, and had to have faith that I was being led in the right direction.

Jeremy and I always planned on doing our own brand one day. I was grieving and needed something positive to focus on, something I could be passionate about, something that gave me the freedom to express my feelings and creativity. The name was obvious for multiple reasons—it symbolized the past, present, and future. In God’s Hands has evolved so quickly; the clothes and message speak to a variety of people from all different ages and backgrounds, especially the jewelry—my nieces and my grandmother love it.

I hope that people are inspired by Jeremy. I want him to be remembered for the things that were so important to him, like talking to his fans. I want him to live on through *In God’s Hands*. I know that Jeremy is here with me every day, pushing me to keep going and giving me the strength and resilience to live my life. This year I partnered with not-for-profit organization American Widow Project to support widows of fallen soldiers with a portion of sales from a custom IGH tee, as these women have similar stories. Not only am I passionate about our line, I want to make a difference by positively impacting others who have suffered tragedy. I believe my purpose now is to carry on Jeremy’s legacy while continuing to pursue my dreams. I want to use my wisdom, faith, and spirit to inspire hope. ■





DAVE NAVARRO

The guitar god rolls up his sleeves and gets to work with a new Jane's Addiction album, *The Great Escape Artist*, and a gig hosting *Inkmasters*, TV's first-ever tattoo competition show.

BY ROCKY RAKOVIC PHOTOS BY DUSTIN COHEN

Jane's Addiction flipped the switch and New York City's Terminal 5 is electric. Dave Navarro is whaling away on his guitar at breakneck speed on a solo so long that Perry Farrell could take a bathroom break while he plays. But he wouldn't want to miss this. Navarro's arms are a blur; he looks like a third base coach waving a player home, but up top he's not even wincing—it looks effortless, impossibly cool.

Jane's Addiction has a new album, *The Great Escape Artist*, coming out, and Navarro is taping Spike TV's *Inkmasters*, a tattoo competition akin to *Top Chef* or *Project Runway* that's due to hit the air in January. In his downtime, the heavily tattooed guitarist gave INKED a tour of his tattoos, pointing out the significance of each with his black fingernails (he says they're painted with a gel that lasts two to three weeks, even through furious guitar playing). "A lot of the things I do are things I did when I was a teenager," he says. "The comment from my friends and family was, 'He's going to grow out of that. He's going to give up on the rock music and the tattoos and the makeup and the nail polish.' And I just never did."

INKED: How did you get your first tattoo?

DAVE NAVARRO: Me and [onetime Jane's Addiction] bass player Eric Avery were in a bar, getting drunk and talking about tattoos. We were really fascinated with them at that time because it seemed like an underground lifestyle. The drinks just flowed, we got the courage, and we ran over to Bob Roberts's shop and got them. I was hooked. People asked me, "What are you going to do when you're an old man?" And the answer was: I'll be an old man with tattoos.

Do you have a preferred tattoo? My favorite tattoo is probably my lower back, which says

"Constance." It's my mom's name and was done in the early '90s by Charlie McDonald. It's more than likely my favorite because of what it stands for as a commemorative piece for my mom, who passed when I was 15. Second to that is probably the portrait of my mom on my rib cage done by Kat Von D. They are similar in nature, and both of those pieces are actually unusual for me because both of them required appointments. Generally speaking, I'm not the artwork-planning type. I prefer spur-of-the-moment tattoos, like, let's just roll over and get something done right away. I like the instant gratification, hence I have a lot of smaller pieces.

What happens when the right artist isn't nearby?

I guess my home shop is the Shamrock Social Club for a few reasons. One, it's up on Sunset [Blvd.] near the Roxy and the Rainbow Room, and I'm up there with Camp Freddy [his cover band] all the time. Mark Mahoney has been doing work on me for years, and everybody is welcome at the Shamrock. But it still has the vibe of that old shop kind of feeling.

What's your latest tattoo? I was sitting at lunch with a friend of mine, and I said, "You know what, I want to go get stars tattooed right now." And we just made a call at the shop: "Who's working? Does he have any time?" We were in and out of there in half an hour. To me there's a bunch of different thoughts and reasons why you get tattooed. Sometimes it's for an aesthetic reason, sometimes it's because you think an image is cool and you like it a lot. Sometimes there's meaning behind things, stories and personal experiences you're trying to commemorate and capture. So being able to just have a feeling and jam over and get something done to commemorate what's happening in your life at that time is a pretty cool thing to do, and I love it.

You also run the risk of walking away with some shitty tattoos. Some of the shittier tattoos I have go down as my favorites because of the time and the experience, so it's not about looking perfect. I had an artist once fuck up something really bad and I said, "Wow, dude, you kinda fucked that up."



And he said, "Well, it's an imperfect art form, it's all right." I've never had anything lasered. I feel like at some point your body becomes like a walking diary and you've got to live with it.

Like the "CE" on your sternum, for former wife Carmen Electra? I still had that experience; it's a part of my story and my life, so I celebrate that. I feel that to cover up something would be to deny having gone through it. I had a great time being married to her. That's my life. And the fact of the matter is, all those elements are things that, as human beings—not to get too spiritual—are collective pieces of who you are today. I probably wouldn't be who I am today had I not gone through that marriage. I'm not going to deny that marriage and then go get it lasered off and get, like, a fucking skull to cover up the scar. A skull means nothing to me. It's similar to trying to un-ring a bell.

Do you treat your band breaks similar to your romantic breakups? Not really, because when I break up with a romantic relationship I stay broken up. It certainly is a different thing with Jane's Addiction. At this point, I know publicly we have parted ways and broken up, but it's more like we've taken long hiatuses. It doesn't really feel like we're "back together again," because after a certain period of

some of the newer approaches in terms of electronics and utilizing the computer as an instrument. The studio itself is also an instrument. In a lot of ways, the studio becomes its own player and creative partner. It was a long process and we never really stopped touring as we went, which was pretty cool because we would do live stuff and then come back and hopefully not lose touch of what that live energy feels like when tracking. It's easy to get blinders on in the studio and just turn knobs and stuff and lose touch of the fact that you're players.

As the guitarist, what do you see your job as being? My job is to be a creative contributor to this band. I got to do a lot of work on my own to give the rest of my band 100 percent, which is, you know, more than just getting up and playing songs.

Which of your bands or projects has been your favorite? Probably Camp Freddy, because it's so much fun. It's just five dudes in a cover band and we play with so many other great artists, guest singers, guitar players, and drummers throughout our sets. I've had the ability to play with just about everyone I respect in the music business, like Lou Reed and Steven Tyler—people I grew up admiring and real intense musicians of a major caliber. I've always learned something from those guys, and at the

so many reasons for it. The word *surrender* in a lot of ways has some spiritual undertones to it, just like letting things go and letting life be what it's going to be. With Dorothy, there's the wicked predator aspect to the phrase, which is kind of fucked up. That movie, apart from having so much legend and history around it—like the whole *The Dark Side of the Moon* thing—is one of those films that most kids were terrified beyond belief by. It's not really a kids' film; most people my age who saw it when they were 6 or 7 were scared to death because it's fucking scary! It's traumatizing. And I just kinda went through this phase with it recently where I watched it again as an adult and it just brought back a lot. I think in a lot of ways it's just kind of a reminder of myself.

The Playboy Bunny on your arm seems thoroughly adult. I was doing an interview with Hugh Hefner and we got on the subject of the Bunny being a logo that has been tattooed on possibly millions of women. And I asked him if anyone has ever asked [his] permission to get that bunny. And he said, "No, not a single person has asked me if that's okay." So I said, "I'd like to be the first person ever to say, 'Mr. Hefner, do you mind if I get the logo of your company tattooed?'" And he said, "It'd be an honor." I'm the only one with a Hefner-sanctioned logo tattoo.

"There are a lot of musicians, but there are very few rock stars; there are a lot of tattoo artists, but very few have that legendary status."

time you're just so connected, whether you want to be or not, that it's hard to feel as though you're out for real. So now I actually made a conscious decision to never again say that I've quit.

Why now for Jane's Addiction? We always intended to try new music, but the timing was just right and we just went for it. We kind of got up and running when we did a tour with Nine Inch Nails a couple years ago. But then our bass player Eric [Avery] left and we worked for a short period of time with Duff McKagen, and then he went to do *Loaded*, and so we found ourselves with a handful of songs and no bass player. Our producer, Rich Costey, put us in touch with Dave Sitek from TV On The Radio, and we worked out the album and then he went back to his band. Interestingly enough, I had him tattoo a pair of his own glasses on me. It's a really shitty tattoo, but a guy that I made a record with did it, so that to me was commemorative of the recording process.

How has technology changed the sound of Jane's Addiction over time? We've embraced

same time we're playing songs that we've always loved. And it's not stressful, it's not about money; it's just guys playing music they love. You get to be in a cover band for the night with the actual artist of the band you're covering, which is pretty cool.

Do you think there is a parallel between rock stars and tattoo artists? I hadn't thought of that. I would just say that, if anything, the real renowned artists carry mystique with them. Most have seen things, gone through a lot. A lot of legendary tattoo artists have been in prison and came up in the '50s when things were really taboo and by having a tattoo you admitted to the public eye that you were a criminal. So there's a mystique and there's legend attached and the stories these guys tell—stuff you can't write. I would say there are a lot of musicians, but there are very few rock stars; there are a lot of tattoo artists, but very few have that legendary status, where to have a piece by such an artist is the equivalent to an art collector owning a Picasso.

How did the Wizard of Oz tattoo, the "Surrender Dorothy" on your chest, come to be? There are

Can you explain the holocaust tattoo? I was sitting on an airplane coming back from Las Vegas and there was an elderly woman sitting next to me. She's looking down at my arms and she said to me, "I have one, but not by choice." And I didn't know what she was talking about. And she rolled up her sleeve and she had a number tattooed on her arm from when she was a child at Auschwitz. She proceeded to tell me about that experience and losing her family, and she was just a small girl at the time. It was really just a profound conversation that gave me a lot of insight into how unimportant all my problems are. I've gone through some shit but never anything like that. Here's this woman sharing with me and putting some fucking perspective on shit. Her name was Rose, and it moved me to a degree where I just wanted to commemorate that day. So I got her initial quote, "I have one, but not by choice," and then a rose by Mahoney. From time to time in my daily life I'll be spinning out in my head and I'll walk by a reflective surface and see it and I'll be like, Oh, right, okay. I'm actually really grateful for that conversation. ■







Look Smashing

Nub TV's stuntmen test
breakthrough styles.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DWORNIK
STYLING BY MARK HOLMES
FOR SEE MANAGEMENT

Goorin Brothers hat; WeSC shirt; John
Varvatos belt, gloves, and shirt (in pocket);
Nudie jeans; Converse by John Varvatos shoes.



Volcom jeans; Shades of Grey shirt; Unit in collaboration with Tendence watch; All Saints boots.
 Opposite: Volcom suit jacket, vest, and shirt; WeSC jeans; Billy Reid bow tie; vintage hat.



Alpine Stars jeans;
Dockers shirt;
Surface to Air
necklace and rings.



Vans jeans; Converse
by John Varvatos shoes;
John Varvatos belt; Unit
in collaboration with
Tendence watch.





Vans jeans and shoes;
Unit in collaboration
with Tendance watch.
Opposite: G-Star jumpsuit;
John Varvatos gloves.

Grooming: Jessica Hwang
Models: Ben Graeff, The Amazing
Hob, Tucker F Upper

For a behind-the-scenes video of the shoot, visit inkedmag.com.



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H2Ocean Model Megan Kawaguchi Photographer Keith Selle

"I've always looked at my job more like a Frank Lloyd Wright and less like a Salvador Dalí. Shit has got to look good and has to fit into your overall aesthetic, but it's got to work. It can't just be about your feelings." —*Troy Denning*

PHOTO BY DUSTIN COHEN





TROY DENNING

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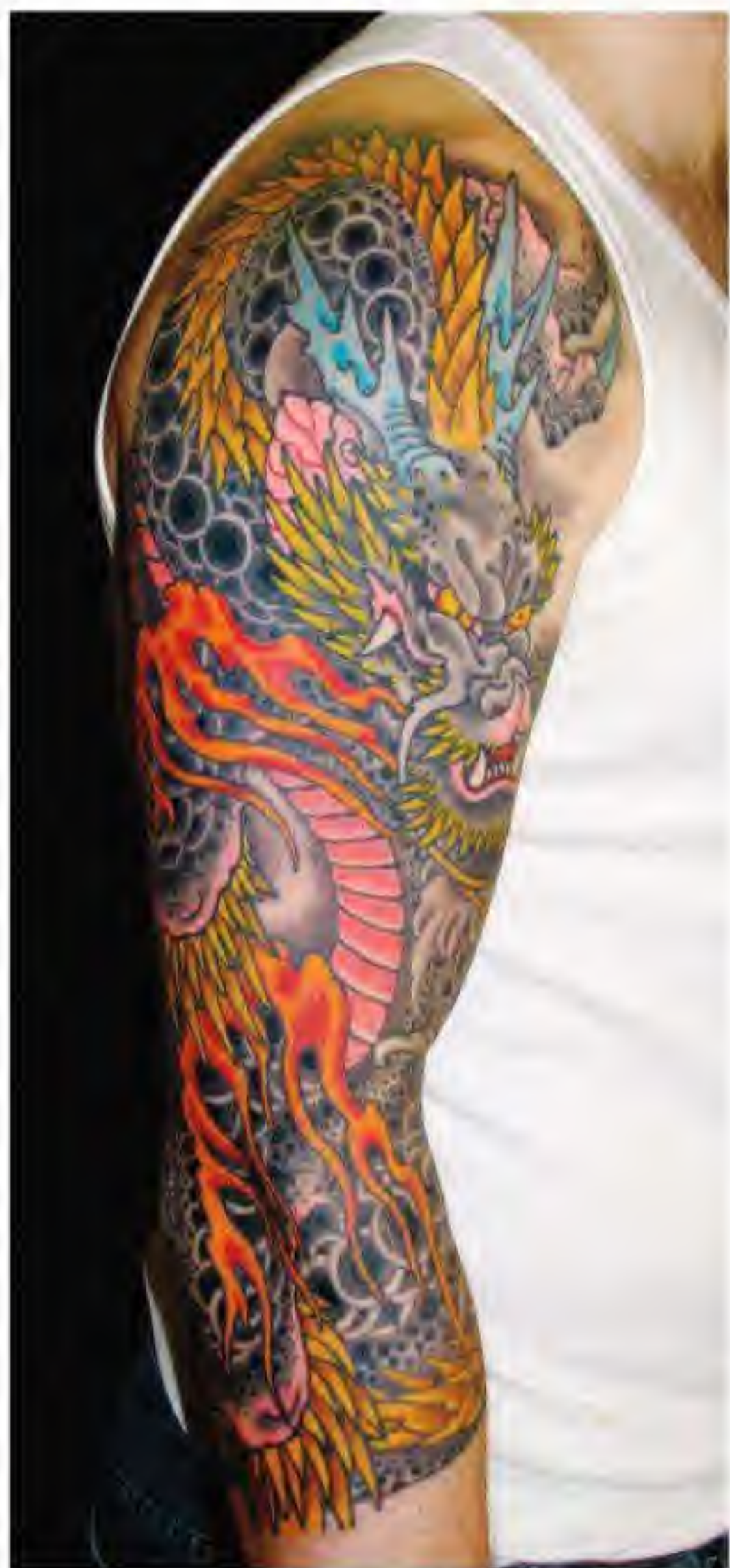
BY MARISA KAKOULAS
PORTRAITS BY DUSTIN COHEN

Troy Denning isn't afraid to speak his mind; in fact, he makes no apologies. Tattooing since 1992, Denning has strong opinions about the craft in its current state. Laughing at how he sounds like an old man ruminating on the past, he calls himself "Troy 'You kids get off my lawn' Denning." But the brawny Oakland native can get away with it because he's developed a reputation for bold, strong work that matches his personality. During this interview at his Invisible NYC studio, Denning was tattooing an intricate Celtic sleeve, a style not often seen in his largely Japanese-inspired portfolio. Over the hum of the machine, he talked about his approach to tattooing, why celebrities get bad tattoos, and the difference between tattoo conventions and a high school cafeteria.

INKED: I'm surprised to see you tattooing Celtic work and not your signature Japanese style.

TROY DENNING: Invisible isn't an exclusively Japanese shop. I like a lot of different styles in tattooing. When I first started, all I wanted to do was Japanese work, but I didn't understand it very well so everything I did would be overdrawn. Nowadays, when I draw a large-scale tattoo design, I really try to make the background, the motion, and the action as much a part of the design as the subject, like having waves crashing, fire, wind, and things of that nature that are really timeless.

So much of Japanese tattooing represents myths and legends. How do you feel about tattooing work on clients who want something completely contrary to Japanese tradition? As long as it's not ostensibly bad or transgressive of a lot of the rules of Japanese tattooing, then I'll do it. I'm not Japanese and I'm not a super-stickler, but I also won't make a hodgepodge of different things in one tattoo. If you put a certain head on a different body, I think that's really lame. But for the most part, I'm not a huge stickler on having a certain flower go in a certain place—although some flowers don't



"THERE'S NOTHING ROUGH OR RAW ABOUT IT. I'M IGGY POP, AND THEY'RE BLINK-182. IT CAN BE THE SAME CHORDS, BUT IT'S TOTALLY STERILE. I SEE TATTOOS ONLINE THAT ARE COMPLETELY PERFECT BUT THERE'S NO SPIRIT BEHIND THEM WHATSOEVER."



go together because they don't look good together. The rules exist for a reason, but they're just guidelines to build upon. Personally, when Western clients come in and they are really up on all of the rules and traditions that apply to Japanese people, I think they're kind of creepy. You know they go home, put on a *fundoshi* [Japanese loincloth], and sit in *seiza* [a traditional sitting position] with a Samurai sword listening to haiku on their iPod.

What kind of work do you particularly like to do?

I really love all tattooing. I love the actual act of doing it, so anything that is challenging. The term "challenging" is a double-edged sword, though, because I don't want to be challenged by something I think is a bad idea. I only want to be challenged by something where the result is favorable, and I'd be proud of the finished product. If I wanted to challenge myself with bad ideas, I'd still work in the ghetto.

That was back in California? Yes, around 1992. I got into tattooing to get out of what I saw was a dead-end life of a lot of fighting, drugs, and hanging out with unsavory people. And then when I got into tattooing, the people I was subjected to were the

worst of the people I was dealing with before, really hard-core bikers and gangbangers and others like that. Then I met a lot of the right people and made good connections, and that helped me out a lot. I was able to parlay that into something positive.

Did you ever apprentice? I'm self-taught. I never apprenticed. At the time I started, tattooers then thought that there were already too many out there, and they weren't teaching anybody. In hindsight, there were probably only 10 percent of the tattooers that are out there now. Today I hear stories of tattooers who have five or six apprentices. When I ask why they don't have a house full of guys working for them, they say, "Oh, he went to do his own thing." I'm like, "Are you a fucking idiot teaching people just so they can open up across the street from you?" How do you benefit from that? But tattooers are so vain. A lot of them take on students just to feel like they know something themselves.

So you think the tattoo world is overpopulated? I used to be a DJ at a strip club, and you had professional strippers who made a fine living and could do whatever the hell they wanted. And then

there were the strippers who just worked enough to buy drugs and pay their rent. I think the majority of tattooers are the latter. They're going to find out that this isn't really for them, because to make an actual career out of tattooing, it's a complete and total lifestyle. It's not something you get into because you wanted to meet people in a certain band. To be a real tattooer, you have to embrace it totally. I see tattooing being treated like a hobby or sideline now, like, "We're renovating French modern furniture and doing tattoos." Tattooing is bigger than that.

And tattoo culture isn't as tough as it used to be, so it's easier to get into.

For sure. When I was working at Everlasting, we had guns everywhere. And that was normal. At the first tattoo shop I ever worked, immediately when I started, [the owner] said, "Do you know how to use a gun?" I said, "Of course." And he says, "This is where it is."

I don't think as many tattooists today know how to use a gun. Forget letting straight-edge kids handle a gun. I couldn't see any of them having to actually grab somebody by the back of the neck and throw them down the stairs. In early tattooing,

guys were rough around the edges, but you could see their softer side by the fact that they were creative. When I was doing tattoo conventions in my early 20s, there were a lot of scary people involved, and I wanted to keep my involvement with them at a minimum. I don't want those days to come back. But today, kids have such a spoiled, myopic view of everything. There are some who tattoo thinking they are only going to do the style of artwork that they've been doodling for their friends. You're not a real tattooer if all you do are your own drawings on people your first year of tattooing. That's something you build up to and are blessed to end up in. Their work just has no soul. There's nothing rough or raw about it. I'm Iggy Pop, and they're Blink-182. It can be the same chords, but it's totally sterile. I see tattoos online that are completely perfect but there's no spirit behind them whatsoever.

How do you approach a tattoo project? What's the process when a client comes to you wanting, say, a back piece? I generally tell people to send me a bunch of images. A picture speaks a thousand words. If you send me a file with five or six photographs in it—and each can be completely different—I will understand the idea behind your project and what you're trying to get. Then, depending where it is on the body, I have a pretty good system of mapping it out and making it fit right. When I was going through a bit of a rough spell but still was slammed, I had to figure out a way to draw really fast and make sure people are happy with it. It was like a pressure cooker. It forced me to come up with methods and strategies to get the most out of the time I spend with the client. I never liked the art school tattooers who think that the client's time is not valuable and that they can sit there and stare at a fucking arm for hours until they come up with some bullshit. That's for you to do on your off time, not when your client is there. When your customer shows up, it should be camera, action. Make the time valuable. I approach tattooing like a craft. It's no different than building a house. You don't start painting it before you have all the walls up and installation in.

It's interesting that you brought up tattooing as a craft, because many refer to it as a fine art today. The people who say it's an art are the ones who have to defend what they do. They say, "You can't rush art." Well, you can, actually. There are things called timelines and working hours. And those things rush art. I've always looked at my job more like a Frank Lloyd Wright and less like a Salvador Dali. Shit has got to look good and has to fit into your overall aesthetic, but it's got to work. It can't just be about your feelings.

I can see the fine art angle in the sense that so many are going to tattooists and saying, "Here's my arm; do what you want." I'm sure you get a lot of that yourself. If someone came

"THE ONLY THING DIFFERENT FROM A TATTOO CONVENTION AND A HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA IS, IN HIGH SCHOOL, THERE ARE ACTUALLY CUTE GIRLS."



to me and said, "Here's my arm; do what you want," I'd punch them on it. *[Laughs.]* The client is never happy in the end. And they never really mean it. You have to have a direction. If it was just a tattoo done according to my taste, the client would have no connection to it. That's fine for a little souvenir tattoo, but not for a sleeve. If I was to do just what I wanted, it would be a witches' Sabbath with a bunch of goat men having sex with nuns. But people don't want to walk around wearing that. Only I like that kind of stuff.

We'll put that out there in case someone wants to get it. Put my number in the article and have them call me.

Are there any tattoos you won't do? There's some debate over hate tattoos, for example. Some say they would never do a "White Power" tattoo, and other tattooers say that they'd do it so people know just what kind of person that client is. What do you think?

I see the logic in doing the tattoo, but you have to take into consideration that you actually have to spend time with that person. Those people never have money, anyway. Anybody who wants some sort of Nazi tattoo has a bunch of dumb friends who will do that shit on him for free. It's not even worth your time. There are a lot of kids right now getting ironic racist tattoos because they think we're past all that, which I think is ridiculous.

Beyond irony, what popular tattoos do you see? Tattooing is so vast that every genre has its own demographic with people who don't care about other styles at all. People tend to get whatever the guys in their social circle who they look up to get.

And you see tattooists who specialize in certain styles stick to their own groups as well. Sometimes conventions are like the high school cafeteria, where the goths are on one side and the hippies are on the other— Sure. The only thing different from a tattoo convention and a high school cafeteria is, in high school, there are actually cute girls. *[Laughs.]*

You're going to be in so much trouble for saying that. C'mon, that was good!

I like your honesty, but do you ever get in trouble for it? Not at all. They know where to fucking find me.

Well, speaking of where they find you, I see you're doing a bunch of renovations on your shop, Invisible NYC. We're expanding the shop and creating a "Super Invisible," where it will be even better. We now have six stations and a full drafting area. In the corner, we'll have a men's club bar area like a mini *izakaya* [Japanese bar with food]. It's fun. I love being here, working with my guys. It's a really good time in my life right now. ■



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Standing from left: Joey Armstrong, Jeff Croci, Cecelia Altamirano, Alex Petty, Nick Chaboya, Luke Stewart, Erik Rieth. Sitting from left: Gordon Combs, George Campise, Greg Rojas, Sarah Revis.

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BY LANI BUESS
SHOP PHOTOS BY CODY PICKENS

Erik Rieth never intended to be a shop owner. He didn't want to be tied down. He longed for the freedom to travel, and in the mid-'90s that's exactly what he did. Early in his tattoo career he sought out artists who inspired him, like Paul Jeffries in Calgary and Filip Leu in Switzerland, and served as a canvas for their artwork. He was welcomed with open arms, forged professional connections, often did guest spots, and sometimes even took up residence. He says the travel "deeply affected my career as a tattooer, and as an artist and as a person as well. There's a lot to be learned out there." Ironically, traveling led him to do in 2005 what he least expected: settle down and open his own shop, Seventh Son Tattoo, in San Francisco.

His inspiration was Jeffries, the burly, bearded artist who initially intimidated him. "Paul taught me a lot, not just about tattooing," says Rieth. "He taught me what it could mean to be a business owner, what an amazing tattoo shop looks like, and what it does."

Seventh Son was originally co-owned by Luke Stewart and Jason Kundell, who has since left to open a shop in Portland. The 2,600-square-foot shop sits on a quiet gallery-laden alley and stands apart from

the abundance of ink shops in the Bay Area in part because it reflects the cultural diversity of Rieth's travels. A look through the portfolios of the artists reveals numerous genres, including the Polynesian-inspired tribal work of Orly Locquiao, Jeff Croci's vibrant biomechanical tattoos, Nick Chaboya's photorealistic portraits, the traditional Americana tattoos and intricate line work of Cecelia Altamirano and Gordon Combs, and the Asian-inspired artwork of Joey Armstrong, Rieth, and Stewart.

"Everyone has a completely different style, a different take on how to do a tattoo," says Stewart.

For Rieth, Asian artwork offers the best creative outlet. "I guess originally what attracted me was the power of larger body pieces, as opposed to a traditional Western approach with single pieces that eventually, if you end up getting heavily tattooed, would tie in together," he says. "That raw power of seeing a finished Japanese body suit—as a tattooer, to me, I don't understand how that can't be something you'd want to aspire to. It's the quintessential tattoo."

Although he's now a confident artist with 19 years of experience, Rieth says tattooing wasn't a



Clockwise from left: tattoo by Cecelia Altamirano, tattoo by Luke Stewart, sketch table, tattoo by Nick Chaboya, tattoo by Jeff Croci, tattoo by Erik Rieth, tattoo by Greg Rojas, tattoo by Gordon Combs, tattoo by Joey Armstrong



calling. "I'm not one of those people who could say they always wanted to be a tattooer or had that uncle covered in tattoos," he explains. "The town I grew up in had one shitty tattoo shop, and it was a biker shop. All I saw coming out of there were Looney Tunes." It wasn't until he attended a tattoo convention after graduating art school that he became curious about the art.

Stewart's story is different. He got into the field through connections at his Brazilian jujitsu academy. For the past 13 years he's been pounding pads as an MMA fighter for Strikeforce and then heading

over to his shop around the corner to pound skin as a tattooer. "Tattooing and jujitsu always have come hand-in-hand in my life," Stewart says. "They're two very opposite things that kind of give me balance in life. Training gets out the aggressive side in me, and art and tattooing kind of give me that focus and discipline." When it comes to his art, he's especially hard on himself: "I really had to work hard to get where I am now. It never came easy to me. When I started tattooing I worked my ass off. I was drawing all the time, painting all the time. Being in the Bay Area I was surrounded by incredible tat-

tooers, so the bar was set really high for me early on. I was really striving to make my tattoos like the guys that I was seeing around me, which was a difficult task. But I was lucky in that regard. ... It's kept me on my toes."

From a 65-year-old man who wanted sleeves to a homeless woman who managed to pull together a hundred bucks for *kanji*—the clientele at Seventh Son is just as diverse as the artists. But when it comes to the finished product, there's one universal vision at this San Francisco shop: delivering "nice tattoos that are timeless," says Stewart. ■



TIM KERN

FROM: Tribulation Tattoo
VISIT: tribulationtattoo.com

Is there any tattoo that you haven't given yet but would like to? I really enjoy working from the ideas my clients bring me, for the most part. I try to only suggest ideas to clients if I know them fairly well. The last thing I want to do is tattoo something on someone that they totally aren't into. One of the few times I've suggested a tattoo for someone, I did a Donnie Darko sleeve on one of my friends. It's still one of my favorite tattoos.

What is it about horror images that draws you in? Maybe it's the adrenaline rush that comes from watching a horror film, or just the challenging nature of the subject matter. I like art that provokes the viewer.

Why do you think the macabre works so well in the tattoo community? Horror imagery is very diverse and has a lot of visual impact, so it works very well for tattoos. The imagery can also be quite personal for the viewer, touching on secret fears or desires, which adds to the intensity.

You do stunning color work—do you have a personal favorite color at the moment? I really love using yellow ochre now, which I absolutely

hated when I was in art school. I have gained a much larger appreciation for more muted color palettes over the years. I also like purple-green, which sounds crazy, but makes a really nice off-blue color.

How are your on-screen projects? I've worked on a few different movie projects, and my favorite so far was *Synecdoche, New York*. I did an asymmetrical bodysuit for Robin Weigert's character. It didn't get a lot of screen time, but it had an amazing impact. I am very proud to have worked on such an awesome, unique film. And I did see one of my pieces on *Iron Chef*—that was pretty cool.

What or who are your artistic influences, tattoo or otherwise? I am inspired by the things I have around me, mostly ... my wife, skulls, taxidermy, things in jars ... and some recent artists whose work I find pretty inspiring are Audrey Kawasaki, Laurie Lipton, Kris Kuksi, Colin Christian, and Kazuki Takamatsu.

Any ideas on a Halloween costume yet? I think The Human Centipede would be a great costume, but logistically impractical.

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AUGUST ISSUE RELEASE PARTY

We threw our Automotive Issue release party at Wooster Street Social Club, home of cover girl Megan Massacre. The tattooers put down their machines and picked up cocktails composed of Balls Vodka and Prometheus Springs' spicy drink mixers to toast Megan. For more photos go to inkedmag.com.





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SUPRA'S SKYTOP III LAUNCH PARTY

To launch the third iteration of Supra's Skytop, high-top skate lord Chad Muska threw two events in Los Angeles. The first was a backyard barbecue at Factory 413, and later the VIP inked crowd kicked it at Trousdale Lounge in West Hollywood. For more photos go to inkedmag.com.



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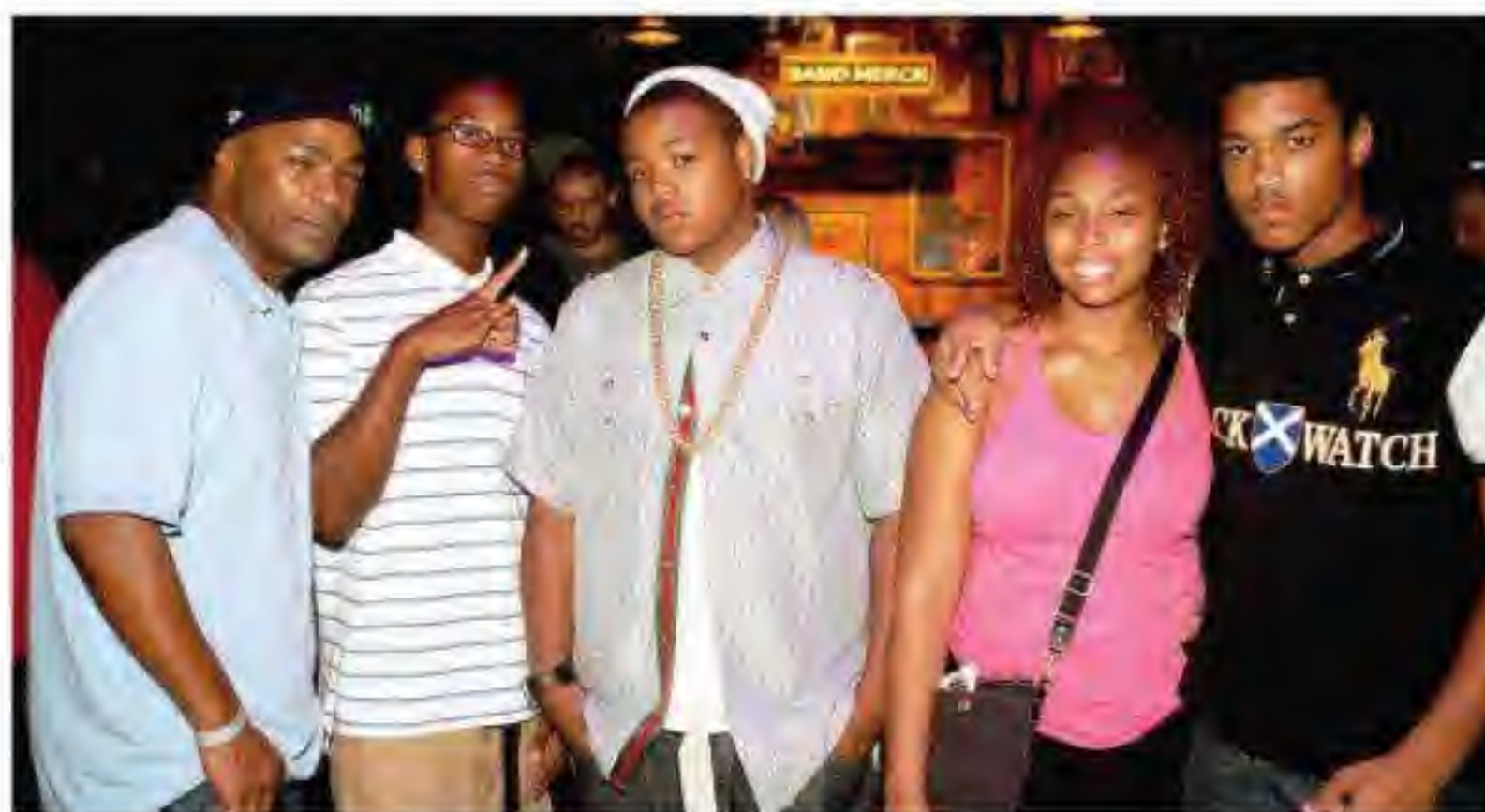
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ROCK THE BELLS

This wasn't a rock 'n' roll show—Raekwon and Ghostface Killah from Wu-Tang, and Mobb Deep blew the roof off of the House of Blues Houston as part of Live Nation's Rock the Bells Tour. For more photos go to inkedmag.com.





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GETTING LUCKY

There are industry parties, red carpet events, and then there's just good ole' fashioned dive bar meet-ups. Here we and our New Jersey drinking buddies got together at our favorite bar in Jersey City: Lucky 7 Tavern. Tune in next month for coverage our Creative Director's cousin's bar mitzvah. For more photos go to inkedmag.com.



PHOTOS BY JESSICA SWANSON AND AMANDA WESTRUP



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JOE MAHER (A.K.A. PEPPER)

Graceland Tattoo, 2648 E. Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY, gracelandtattoo.com

During the day he is Joe Maher, an art director for a premium financial magazine in Manhattan. Then, at night, he puts on his tattoo gloves and turns into Pepper. "I'm a thinker, and art is what I use for getting those thoughts out there," he says. "I like to work with my hands, but I also like to be creative and use my mind. Tattooing is a perfect storm. I try to make something that's visually appealing at first glance. I always look at the composition and balance first." While his two lives seem unorthodox for a tattooer, his favorite genre is more traditional. "I love traditional because it is bold and timeless and really feels like what a tattoo is supposed to be," Pepper says. "The guys that have come long before my time figured it out, and I'm going to spend a lifetime trying to figure it out for myself." And when that lifetime is through he wants his gravestone to have an image of a traditional hand holding an envelope that reads "Return to Sender."

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